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| AN BORD PLEANÁLA | |
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| 28 MAY 2024 | |
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**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING SUBMISSION REPORT**

on

**Development under Section 182A (1)
(Electricity Transmission Lines) of the
Planning & Development Act 2000–2022**

for the

**PROPOSED EAST MEATH – NORTH DUBLIN
GRID UPGRADE
PROJECT (ABP-319422-24)**

in

Co. Meath & Fingal/ Co. Dublin

16/06/2023

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1.0 Introduction

An Bord Pleanála has requested a submission from the Planning Authority (Meath County Council) on an application from EirGrid who seek statutory approval of the proposed Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade project under Section 182A (1) (Electricity Transmission Lines) of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000-2022.

EirGrid is the licensed Transmission System Operator for Ireland pursuant to the provisions of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999. As per legislation, S.I. No. 445/2000, EirGrid plc operate and ensure the maintenance of, and if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient electricity transmission system. It is also required to explore and develop opportunities for interconnection of its system with other systems, in all cases with a view to ensuring that all reasonable demands for electricity are met having due regard for the environment. The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) is the licensed Transmission System Owner. If permitted, the proposed transmission infrastructure will be constructed (pursuant to its statutory powers) and owned by the ESB.

As per Section 182A (9) of PDA 2000-2022:

"... Transmission", in relation to electricity, shall be construed in accordance with section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 but, for the purposes of this section, the foregoing expression, in relation to electricity, shall also be construed as meaning the transport of electricity by means of –

- (a) A high voltage line where the voltage would be 110 kilovolts or more, or*
- (b) An interconnector, whether ownership of the interconnector will be vested in the undertaker or not."*

An Bord Pleanála (ABP¹) note that the Planning Authority submission on an application for approval under Section 182A is not subject to any statutory requirement relating to the formal submission of a manager's report to the elected members of the Council prior to making a submission to the Board. Such a statutory requirement only applies to applications for planning permission under Section 37E of the PDA 2000-2022.

However, it is expected that a submission from the Planning Authority will focus on a range of issues, where relevant, including:

- Main relevant Development Plan (including Draft) provisions relating to the subject site and surrounding area, relevant issues arising and provisions in other plans such as Local Area Plans (Draft or Adopted);
- Relevant planning history (site and surrounding area);
- Relevant national, regional and local policies;
- Any Special Area Amenity Order which may be affected by the proposed development;
- European designations or Natural Heritage Areas which may be affected by the proposed development (whether in or proximate to same);
- Protected Structure, Architectural Conservation Areas, etc.;

¹ In a letter dated 05/05/2023.

- Availability and capacity of public surface water drainage facilities and any history of flooding relevant to the site;
- Assessment of landscape status and visual impact, as appropriate;
- Carrying capacity and safety of road network serving the proposed development;
- Environmental carrying capacity of the subject site and surrounding area, the likely significant impact arising from the proposed development, if carried out;
- Planning Authority view in relation to the decision to be made by the Board;
- Planning Authority view of community gain conditions which may be appropriate;
- Details of relevant section 48/49 Development Contributions Scheme conditions which should be attached;
- Details of any special contribution conditions which should be attached along with detailed calculations and justification for the conditions; and
- Views/ recommendations of all relevant departments in the local authority and the planning authority's overall considered view on the proposal.

The following Planning Submission Report from Meath County Council seeks to address the above issues.

2.0 Proposed development & Site Location

2.1 Development Description

The proposed development consists of the following principal elements²:

- A. Installation of an underground cable circuit, approximately 37.5km in length, connecting Woodland Substation (400kV) in the townland of Woodland in County Meath, and Belcamp Substation (220kV) in the townlands of Clonshagh and Belcamp in Fingal. The development of the underground cable circuit will include the following:
 - Construction of a trench of approximately 1.5m in width and approximately 1.3m in depth in the public road (approximately 26km) and approximately 1.8m in depth in private lands (approximately 11.5km) in which the underground cable circuit is laid in flat formation, with associated above ground route marker posts. Route marker posts will be located at field boundaries where the proposed underground cable circuit is laid in private land, at regular intervals in road verges when the proposed underground cable circuit is in-road, in road verges where the proposed underground cable circuit crosses any roads, and at Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) crossing locations;
 - Construction of 49 Joint Bays (on average every 750m), primarily in the public roads, each approximately 10m in length, 2.5m in width and 2.5m in depth, with adjacent communication chambers and link boxes, along the full alignment of the underground cable circuit. Where the Joint Bays are located off-road, permanent hardstanding areas will be created around the Joint Bays;
 - The laying of communication links and fibre optic cables between both substations, running in the same trench as the underground cable circuit;
 - The provision of seven Temporary Construction Compounds located along the route and adjacent to substations – sizes for each of the seven Temporary Construction Compounds ranging from approximately 0.8ha to 1.6ha;
 - The provision of a Temporary HDD Compound at both the reception and launch locations for three HDD motorway crossings, (i.e., six temporary HDD Compounds in

² The application can be accessed from: <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/319422> and <https://www.eirgrid.ie/eastmeathnorthdublin>.

- total), and associated laydown area for each HDD crossing (i.e., three laydown areas in total) - sizes for each of the six HDD compounds (plus laydown area where applicable) ranging from approximately 0.15ha to 0.45ha;
- The provision of temporary Passing Bays during construction at certain Joint Bay locations, each approximately 95m in length and 5.5m in width;
 - The laying of unbound temporary access tracks, 5m wide in private lands (approximately 12km in total length);
 - The laying of 12 unbound, permanent access tracks, 4m wide in private land (approximately 4km in total length);
 - All associated water, rail, road, and utility underground crossings using either trenchless drilling or open cut techniques as appropriate for the particular crossing; and
 - All associated and ancillary above and below-ground site development works, including works comprising or relating to permanent and temporary construction and reinstatement, roadworks, utility diversions and site and vegetation clearance.
- B. Upgrades to the existing 400kV Woodland Substation in the townland of Woodland in County Meath. This will include:
- Installation of a 400kV feeder bay and associated electrical shunt reactor (approximately 8m in height);
 - Installation of insulators, instrument transformers, overhead conductors, disconnectors, circuit breakers, surge arrestors (up to 12.6m in height) in order to connect the bay to the busbar;
 - Installation of two gantries, 25m in height, with one 3m tall lightning rod on top of each gantry; and
 - All ancillary site development works including site preparation works, underground cabling, drainage and earthgrid, as required to facilitate the proposed development.
- C. Upgrades to the existing 220kV Belcamp Substation in the townlands of Clonshagh and Belcamp in Fingal. This will include:
- Construction of a new steel framed and clad building (73m long, 17.8m wide by 16m high) to house a new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Hall, plus eight lightning rods on the roof of the GIS Hall (each 3m in height);
 - Installation of 400kV switchgear to facilitate the connection of the new underground cable circuit to the existing substation;
 - Installation of associated electrical shunt reactor (approximately 8m in height) with insulators, instrument transformers, overhead conductors, disconnectors, circuit breakers, surge arrestors (up to 12.8m in height) in order to connect the reactor to the cable circuit;
 - Installation of two lightning masts (each 15m in height);
 - Installation of a new 400/220kV transformer adjacent to the new GIS Hall and connections to the existing 220kV substation via cable circuit;
 - Internal access road; and
 - All ancillary site development works including site preparation works, site clearance and levelling, drainage, access tracks, and use of existing access points off Stockhole Lane and the R139.

2.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a site area of **142ha** over approximately **37.5 km of 400kV underground cable** and associated infrastructure and site development, between the existing Woodland 400kV substation, near Batterstown, Co. Meath and the existing 220/ 110kV Belcamp substation.

24.4km of the cable route will run in-road, with 13.2km off-road/ through agricultural land, etc. It also includes proposed development works at both substations comprising

a new bay to facilitate connection. 17km of **underground cable** is proposed in Fingal, Co. Dublin with **20.5km in Co. Meath**.

The section of the cable route from Woodland substation across fields to the public road is routed along a corridor shared with the proposed 400kV underground cable as part of the Kildare - Meath 400kV Grid Upgrade, which is a separate strategic infrastructure development application pending decision with ABP (**ABP-316372-23**).

The proposed development comprises the following key elements:

- Cable Route;
- Works at Woodland substation; and
- Works at Belcamp substation.

The single circuit comprises three cables in a flat formation, buried in a **cable trench** of approximately 1.5m (wide) x 1.3m (deep) in the public road; and 1.8m (deep) in private lands. Trenches are described as open-cut, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) (underground bore) and bespoke cable bridges. The main method is 'open cut', with HDD at motorways, etc.

49 no. (10m long) 2.5m by 2.5m **Joint Bays** at intervals of 750m (500 to 800m) and associated 14 no. (95-100m long and 5.5m wide) temporary passing bays (where necessary) will be required along the length of the route. Passing bays comprise a temporary traffic lane to allow traffic flow around Joint Bays while construction works are ongoing. Passing bays will require the removal of the top layer of ground to the side of the carriage way including hedgerow/ other vegetation and temporary storage, prior to reinstatement. New hedges are proposed to be planted.

Upgrades to the existing 400kV Woodland Substation in Woodland Co. Meath and to the existing 220kV Belcamp Substation in Clonshagh and Belcamp in Fingal form part of the proposal. Of relevance to Co. Meath are the **proposed works at the Woodland 400 kV Station**, which is an important 'hub' in the electricity network, in the townland of Woodland, Co. Meath, which will involve the installation of a 400kV feeder bay and electrical shunt reactor which is 8m in height, installation of insulators, instrument transformers, overhead conductors, disconnectors, circuit breakers, surge arrestors (up to 12.6 m in height) in order to connect the bay to the busbar; installation of two gantries, 25m in height, with one 3m tall lightning rod on top of each gantry; and all ancillary site development works including site preparation works, underground cabling, drainage and earth grid, as required.

The proposal will extend the hardstand compound permitted under MCC PI. Ref. 221550, connecting to and extending permitted services. A temporary construction compound (TCCO) will be located to the north and east of the substation compound and will be accessed from Red Bog Road.

A new 400kV GIS hall and associated transformers is required at Belcamp to facilitate the connection.

The construction phase is expected to last **42 no. months** (subject to approval Q.3 2026 – Q4 2029) when it will be fully operational after testing. It comprises enabling works (e.g. vegetation clearance, access tracks, construction areas); installation of passing bays and joint bays; excavation and installation of ducts (trench excavation and restoration, road/ river crossing, etc.); installation of cables at joint bays into a continuous circuit; substation works at Woodland and Belcamp to connect to existing grid; and decommissioning of temporary construction compounds and passing bays and complete agreed landscaping.

A **temporary working strip** is required beyond the trench width to allow for construction and varies from **10m** for in-road installation and **50m** cross county (though can be reduced) and this is included in the application boundary. This can include the storage of equipment, storage of soil prior to reinstatement, jointing equipment, etc.

7 no. 1 ha (100m x 100m) temporary construction compounds will be required and the reasons for their selection include (existing concrete/ hardstanding areas, close to works, suitable road access, away from residential development, watercourses, power supply, etc.). Temporary compounds are also proposed at reception and launch locations associated with **3 no. horizontal directional drilling (HDD)** to facilitate works only. These range from 0.15ha to 0.45ha.

It is also proposed to provide temporary (12km x 5m wide) and permanent access tracks (4km x 4m wide) in private land.

The proposal will involve above and below ground works, comprising or related to permanent and temporary construction and reinstatement, roadworks, utility diversions and site and significant vegetation clearance.

The stated purpose of the proposal (Section 1.4 of Planning Report) is to strengthen the electricity network in the east of Meath and the north of Dublin to improve the transfer of power across the existing transmission network to:

- Address the increased electricity demand in east Meath and north Dublin due to economic development and population growth;
- Reduce the use of and reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation;
- Facilitate further development of renewable energy generation, onshore and offshore; and
- Assist in achieving climate action targets of having up to 80% of electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030.

Section 6.2 of the Planning Report refers to changing nature of economic activity in the region, new high demand users, population growth, a limited no. of existing circuits supplying the area, low energy generation with Finglas, Corduff, Shellybanks and Irishtown requiring newer and more efficient generation, increasing levels of renewables from the west of Ireland (and future projects along the east coast) with a need for power to be transported to demand centres in the east of the country/ Greater Dublin area including Corduff, Finglas and Belcamp. This project seeks to **reinforce and strengthen the Grid/ transmission network, improve power quality and growing demand through** and a future energy scenario, carried out as part of

EirGrid's 6 Step Grid Development process³, identified a shortage of capacity to transfer power along a corridor of 220kV lines between Woodland 400kV substation and Finglas, Corduff and Belcamp 220kV stations, and load and generation at Poolbeg and Shellybanks 220kV stations.

The applicant submits that it will enable further renewable energy generation to meet Climate Action Plan targets (80% renewable electricity by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050) and the transportation of electricity from renewable energy projects and the achievement of emissions targets.

2.2 Site Location and Description

The north-west of the subject site is in the townland of Woodland and encompasses the Woodland 400 kV Electrical Transmission Station, c.2.3 km to the south-east of the centre of Culmullin Rural Node and c. 2 km to the west of the centre of Batterstown Rural Node.

Woodland Substation is accessed via an existing access road to the south-east which in turn joins the L-6207-0 further to the south-east and the lands within the substation site are generally flat. The permitted North-South EirGrid Interconnector Scheme lies to the west of Woodland Station. The site extends in a general south to south-west direction into the following townlands of Gaulstown, Culcommon, Cullendragh and Barstown and extending east along the R-156 through Lynaghstown, Blackhall Big, Waynestown, Harlockstown, Vesingstown, Sarney, Cushinstown, Colliersland North, Newtown, Dunboyne (Td.), Bennetstown, Pace, Woodpark; across the River Tolka and M3 to a local road (L-5026-0), along Stokestown, Portmanna, across the Ward River, Belgree, Prieststown and into Kilbride village. After the village of Kilbride, the site travels south-east across Ballymacarney and the county boundary in the townland of Court along a protected route (L-1007-40) and continues into Fingal, Co. Dublin and the Hollystown area.

The full list of townlands in Co. Meath and Fingal Co. Dublin are set out below:

Table 1: Townlands associated with the Proposed development

| Co. Meath | Fingal Co. Dublin |
|--|---|
| Barstown, Woodland, Gaulstown, Culcommon, Cullendragh, Creemore, Portan, Lynaghstown, Blackhall Big, Staffordstown Little, Harlockstown, Waynestown, Vesingstown, Baytownpark, Sarney, Cushinstown, Colliersland North, Dunboyne, Bennetstown, Pace, Woodpark, Piercetown, Ballymagillin, Whitesland, Normansgrove, Stokestown, Kinoristown, Rowan, Nuttstown, Ballintry, Belgree, Priest Town, Ballymacarney and Court. | Court, Gallanstown, Yellow Walls, Hollywood, Irishtown, Sprickletstown, Killamonan, Cherryhound, Ward Upper, Ward Lower, Newpark, Shallon, Corrstown, Common, Skephubble, Ballystrahan, Kilreesk, Kingstown, Barberstown, Pickardstown, Forrest Great, Forrest Little, Cloghran, Glebe, Baskin, Stockhole, Middletown, Clonshagh and Belcamp. |

³ This project is also identified in EirGrid's Local Security of Supply Multi-year Plan 2023-2027.



Fig. 1: Proposed Cable Route (c. EirGrid)

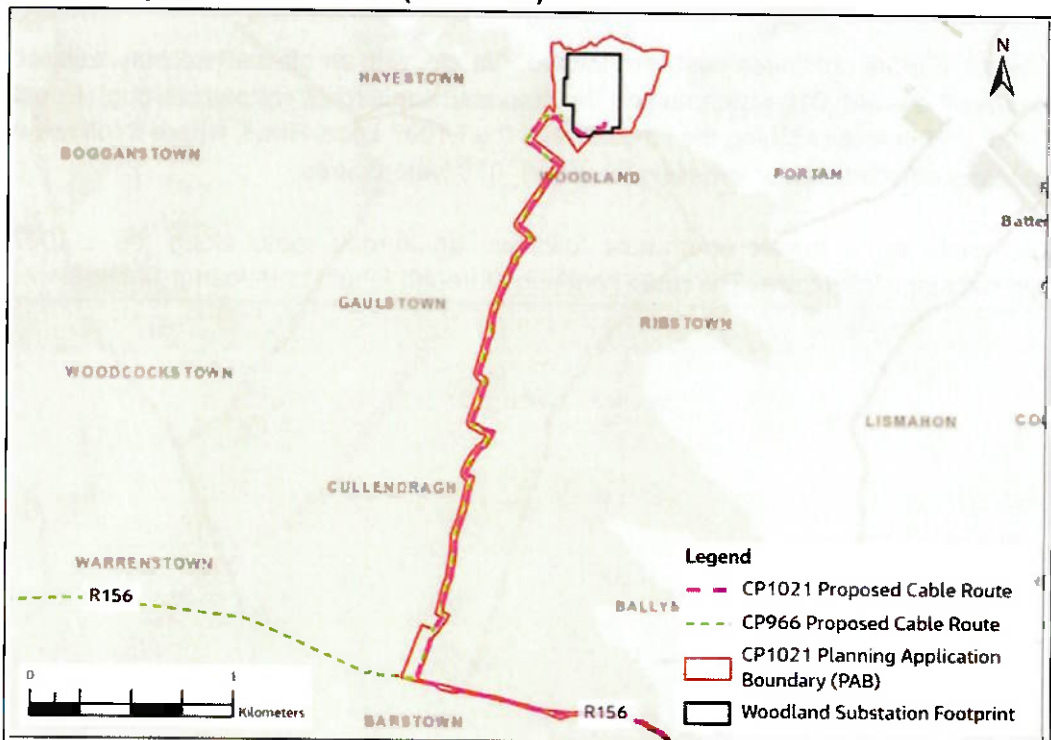


Figure 4-3 – Shared Corridor from Woodland

Fig. 2: Proposed Cable Route from Woodland Substation to the R-156 (c. EirGrid)



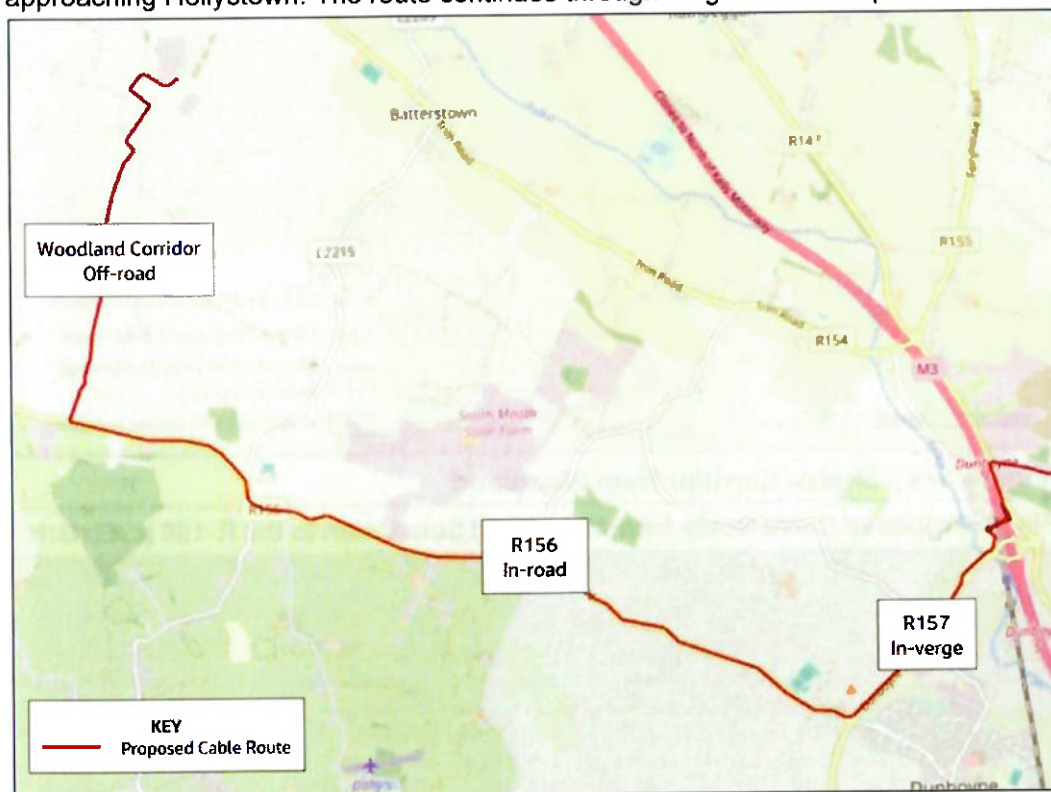
Fig. 3: Start of Proposed Cable Route at Woodland in Co. Meath travelling south and east over the county boundary (c. EirGrid Interactive Web Map)

The site extends from Woodland Substation in Co. Meath south to the R-156, in a corridor over private land, following the R-156 to the edge of Dunboyne, travelling north-east towards North Dunboyne along the R-157, at which point it goes to an off-road corridor, crossing the River Tolka, the railway line at the M3 Parkway and M3 at Junction 5 (via Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)).

The proposed cable route progresses north along the R147 Regional Road before travelling east along L-5026. At the junction with the L-1010, the proposed cable route turns north-east, following the L-1010 Local Road, before turning east again through Nuttstown, following an off-road route to facilitate the crossing of a watercourse, which is a tributary of the Pinkeen_010 watercourse.

The cable route continues eastward toward Kilbride, with an off-road section required to cross the Ward_010 watercourse. The proposed cable route will pass through Priest Town, and before reaching the junction with the L1007 Local Road, where it follows a localised off-road section crossing the Ward_010 watercourse.

The cable route travels south-east following an in-road route along the L-1007 approaching Hollystown. The route continues through Fingal to Belcamp Substation.



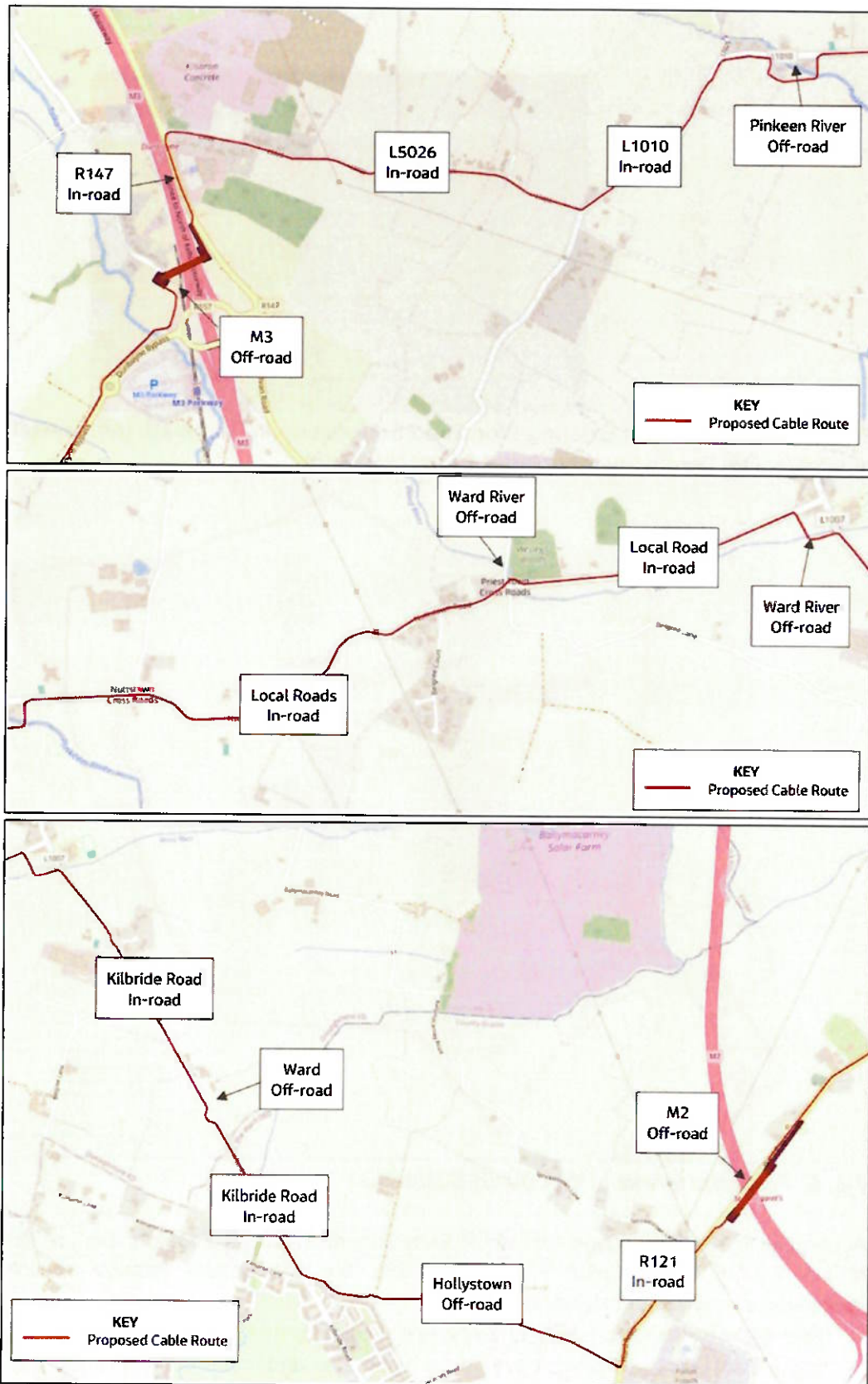


Fig. 4: Section of the proposed development in Co. Meath



Fig 5: Location/ View of Existing Woodland Sub-station in Co. Meath (north-east of site) (c. OSi Discovery mapping & Aerial Mapping)

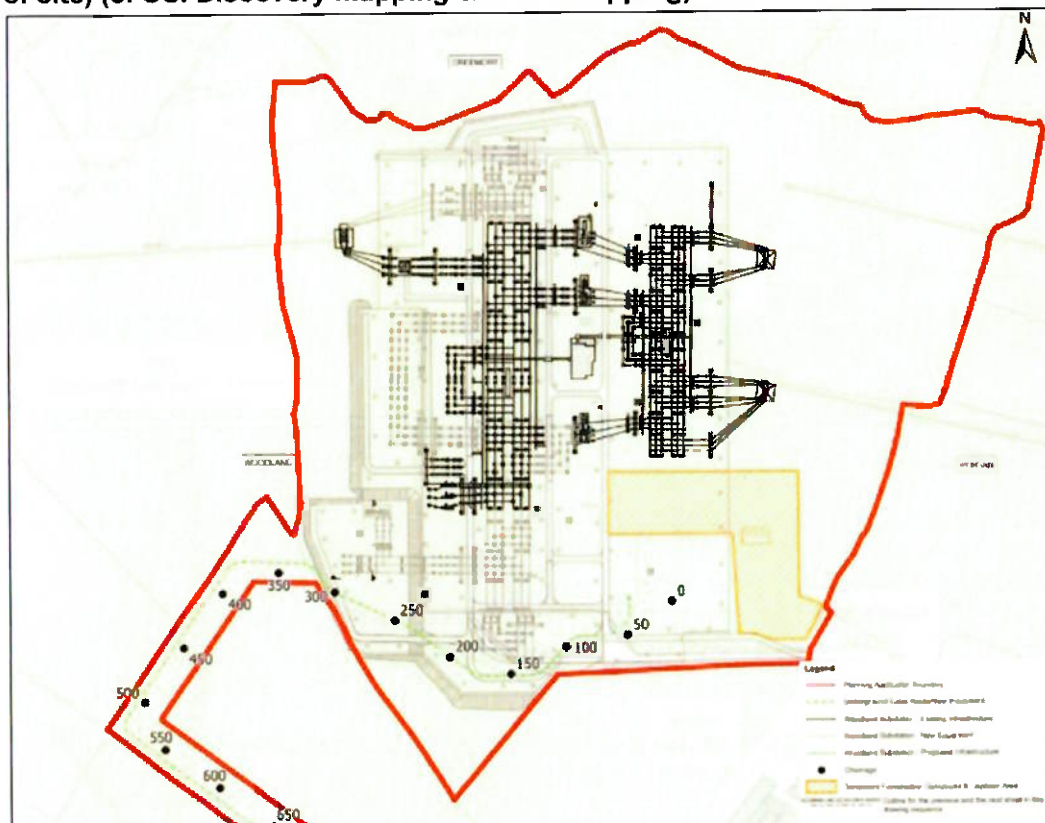


Fig. 6: Proposed works at Woodland Substation

According to the Landscape Character Assessment for County Meath (part of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027), the site passes through several landscape character areas, including:

- Tara Skryne Hills which have an exceptional value and high sensitivity.
- South-East Lowlands which have a very high value and moderate sensitivity; and
- Ward Lowlands which have a low value and high sensitivity.

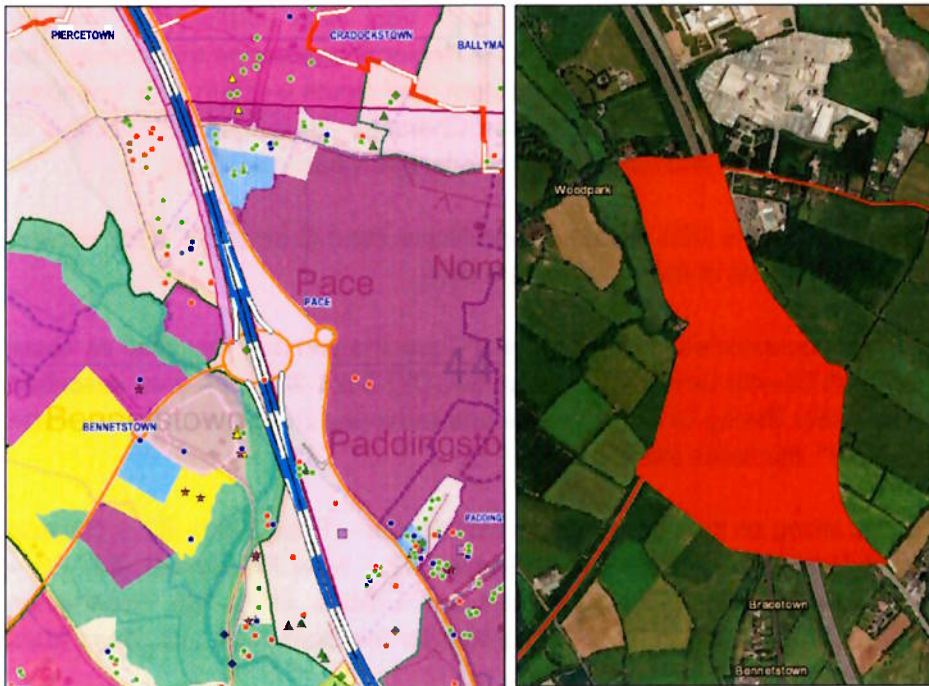


Fig. 7: Dunboyne Landuse Zoning (MCDP)



Fig. 8: Masterplan Area 22 (MCDP 2021-2027)⁵

The proposal passes along F1 – Open Space and E2 – General Enterprise and Employment zoning in Kilbride⁶.

⁵ <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/development-plans/master-plans/master-plan-22-lands-at-dunboyne-north>

⁶ <https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan/chapter/kilbride>

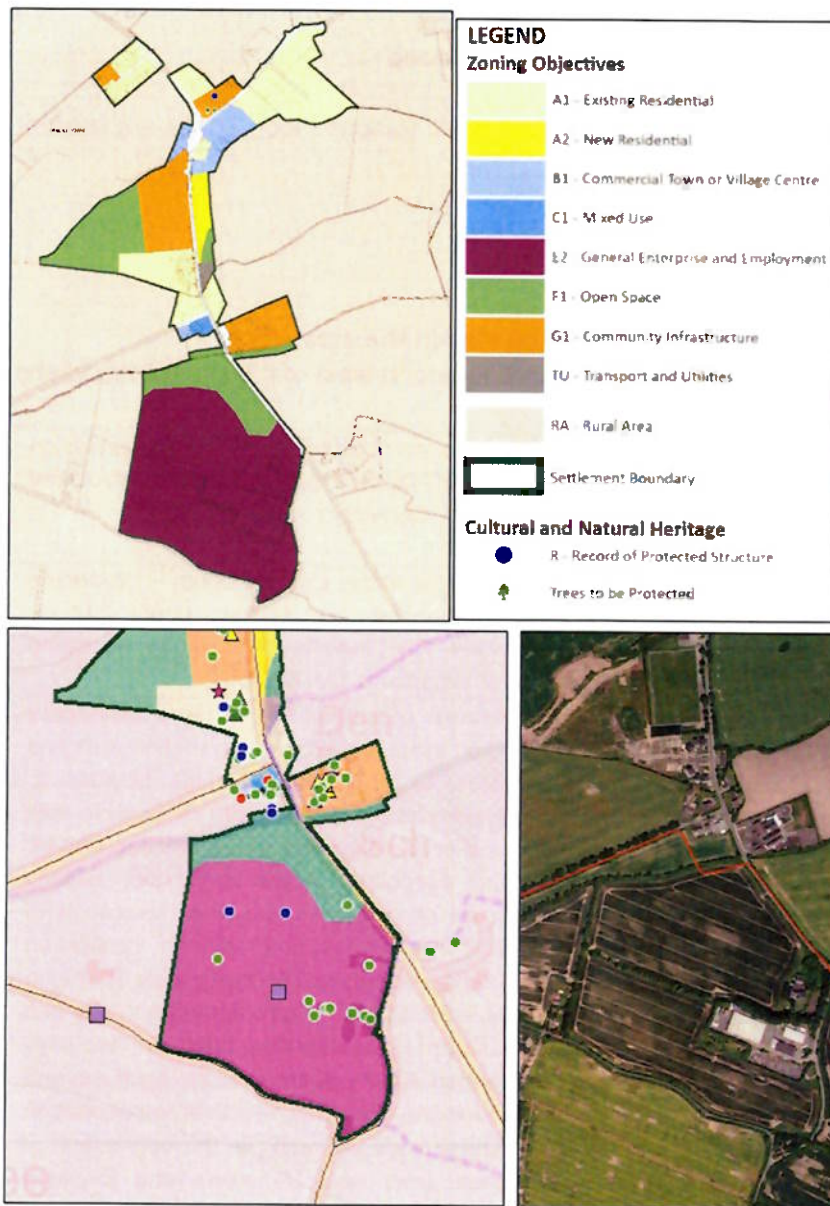


Fig. 9: Kilbride Landuse Zoning/ Aerial image of Kilbride (MCDP)

Land use within the site includes agricultural land, roads infrastructure, zoned lands, motorways, watercourse crossings, etc. There are numerous rural dwellings with some community facilities adjoining the roads. Local roads are narrow in places and have heavy traffic in peak periods. There is an existing access to Woodland Substation in Co. Meath.

There are no Protected Structures located within of adjoining the subject site. There are no Protected Views within the vicinity of the application site/ route in Co. Meath.

The following National/ Recorded Monuments along the route in Co. Meath are relevant:

- ME01996 (ME050-008) Ringfort – Rath along R156
- ME02874 (MC080-030) Earthwork in Dunboyne North
- ME02016 (ME051-002) Enclosure south-west of Kilbride

The development is not located in any SAC or SPA. Various Flood Zones are present across the length of the scheme.

3.0 Planning History

3.1 Relevant Planning Applications on the site/ in the area

The following applications are associated with the north-west of the site (at Woodland Substation):

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| ABP-316372-23 | Current EirGrid SID Application for reinforcement of the transmission network project comprising a 400kV UGC (approx. 53km) between Woodland electrical substation in Co Meath and Dunstown 400kV substation in Co Kildare. |
| 2360296 | Permission granted for Proposed uprate of the existing Louth – Woodland 220 kV overhead powerline (OHL) between the existing Louth 220 kV substation in the townland of Monavallet, Co. Louth and the existing Woodland 220 kV substation in the townland of Woodland, Co. Meath. |
| 221550 | Permission granted for the 1. Installation of outdoor Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical apparatus, including an associated extension to the hardstand compound (approximately 4 hectares) to facilitate same. This includes: a. installation of an extension to both sides of the existing 400 kV busbar, with provision of an associated wing coupler at either end of the existing 400 kV busbar. b. additional apparatus and associated works to the two existing busbars to create what is known as sectionalising bays. c. relocation of existing transformer connections from existing busbar to adjacent location on new busbar. d. an associated single-story extension (approximately 80 m2) to the existing control building. 2. The erection of four new lightning masts and relocation of one existing mast (each approximately 45m high). 3. Two bays on opposite sides to the newly extended 400 kV busbars at the southern end of the substation, each bay to incorporate breakers, reactive compensation devices and cable sealing ends. These bays will facilitate the connection of the new 400 kV underground cable links from Dunstown and Belcamp substations respectively. 4. Renewal, alteration and/or removal of associated 400 / 220 kV electrical apparatus and equipment. 5. All ancillary site development works including site preparation works, site clearance and levelling; provision of hardstanding, internal access tracks and temporary construction compound; associated underground cabling and earthgrid; associated extended surface water drainage network including a soakaway; associated palisade fencing and gates (approximately 2.65m high); lighting poles and landscaping as required to facilitate the development. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. EirGrid has indicated that construction has not commenced. |
| ABP Ref. 314111 | EirGrid Plc. Upgrading of the existing Woodland 400/200 kV electrical substation. ABP Decision: Is not Strategic Infrastructure. The An Bord Pleanála determination/ Decision is dated 25/08/2022. |
| DAS51645 | EirGrid Plc. Section 5 Declaration Application. Whether or not proposed alterations to a structure, in this instance the Woodland 1400/200kV |

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| | <p>Substation, to be carried out within the existing structure boundary on lands owned and maintained by the ESB Networks (ESB) is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.</p> <p>(The alterations are required to update the communications and protection equipment associated with the Corduff 1 bay in woodland Substation. The proposed works comprise the decommissioning and removal of the existing two line traps and associated communications insulators and the installation of three surge arrestors and the conductor that transfers electricity between the overhead line and existing bay equipment. The surge arrestors will be approximately 2.5 metres shorter than the existing equipment to be removed at Woodland County Meath).</p> <p>The Planning Authority issued a decision on 25th October 2016 stating that the proposed development is <u>Exempted Development</u>.</p> |
| DA110127 | <p>EirGrid Plc. Permission for alterations to the existing 400kv electrical transformer station, consisting of a new 400kv/220kv transformer with concrete bund, 400kv transformer bay, 220kv transformer bay, busbar extensions, 1 no. lighting arrester, oil interceptor and associated site works. Permission was granted on 17/05/2011 subject to 3 no. conditions.</p> |
| DA60583 | <p>Electricity Supply Board Telecoms Ltd. Permission for the erection of a 42 metre high free standing lattice communications structure, carrying antennae and communication dishes, with associated ground-mounted equipment cabinets within a 2.4m high palisade compound, to share with other licensed operators at ESB's existing Woodlands 400V substation. Permission was granted on 28/03/2007 subject to 7 no. conditions.</p> |
| DA60134 | <p>Electricity Supply Board. Permission for alterations to the existing 400kv electrical transformer station, consisting of a new transformer, radiator bank, 3 no. surge arrestors, and oil interceptor. Permission was granted on 02/11/2006 subject to 1 no. condition.</p> |
| 991106 | <p>E.S.B.: Permission for the erection of palisade fencing in place of existing chain-link fencing to the perimeter of the electrical compound at E.S.B. Woodland 400 K.V. Station. Permission was granted on 02/09/1999 subject to 1 no. condition.</p> |
| 93791 | <p>Electricity Supply Board. Permission to erect a Telecommunications mast at existing high voltage transmission station. Permission was granted on 04/11/1993 (Unconditional).</p> |
| PCI0001 - ABP | <p>Permission granted to EirGrid for the North South Interconnector project involves a second, higher-capacity interconnector being added, to connect the electricity grids of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It will connect to the network in Northern Ireland in Co Tyrone, cross the border between Armagh and Monaghan, and then join the network in Ireland at an existing substation in County Meath. Permission granted on 19/12/2016.</p> |

| <i>Adjacent site</i> | |
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| 23136 | <p>Permission granted to GDA Energy 4 Ltd. on 16/05/2023 for Permission for development at a c. 14.14 ha site, located at Creemore and Belshamstown, in Batterstown, Co. Meath, as permitted under MCC Reg. Ref. 22837 (which permitted a new battery energy facility and synchronous condenser.). The proposed development will consist of amendments to the previously permitted development (MCC Reg. Ref. 22837) including amendments to the previously approved internal access road layout; amendments to the previously approved attenuation pond to the south of the site and associated piped</p> |

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| | infrastructure, ducting and drainage arrangements. In addition, a previously permitted earthen berm to the centre of the site is to be omitted. No changes are proposed to the permitted vehicular access to the R154. Any associated amendments to changes in level and all associated site development, hard and soft landscaping and excavation works above and below ground are also included. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years. |
| 22837 | Permission was granted to GDA Energy 4 Ltd. The proposed development constitutes a new battery energy storage facility & synchronous condenser, with associated change of use on lands currently in agricultural use. The proposed development will comprise of rechargeable battery units with grid forming inverters contained within 253 no. 40 foot containers on site. (An associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanála in relation to a 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation and associated development on the adjoining lands to the east of the proposed development site, located at Creemore & Woodland, in Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended). In addition, the proposed development includes a synchronous condenser within a c.983 sqm building (ranging in height from c. 11 to 13 m), with associated compound & plant; oil separator & collection pit; transformers; circuit breakers; underground cabling ducts & cable. The proposed development includes underground cable which will connect the new battery energy storage facility to the adjoining proposed 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation (the subject of the associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application as reference above). The proposed development will also include a battery storage control building (c. 400 sqm, 6.86 m in height); security gates & boundary treatments; hard & soft landscaping; well; bollards; plant & water storage tank; wastewater treatment system; SuDs; attenuation pond; installation of earthen berms; piped infrastructure & ducting; culverts; street lighting; lighting masts & CCTV columns; car parking; stoned access roads & the upgrading of the existing vehicular access to the R154; changes in level & all associated site development & excavation works above & below ground. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application. Permission was granted on 07/12/2022 subject to 21 no. conditions. |
| ABP Ref. 313653 | GDA energy Ltd (Applicant). Pre-Application Consultation Request. Proposed 220kV GIS substation, grid connection to the existing transmission network and associated works. <u>An Bord Pleanála issued a decision on 28/10/2022 that the proposed development is a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).</u> |

| <i>Adjacent site</i> | |
|----------------------|--|
| RAS52021 | <p>EirGrid Plc. <u>Section 5 Declaration Application</u>. Whether or not the proposed refurbishment/ uprate works of the Maynooth-Woodland 220 kV Overhead Line is or is not exempted development, in accordance with Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2019.</p> <p>(The following development description is provided in Section 4 of the planning application form:</p> <p>The development will consist of the refurbishment/ uprate of the Maynooth – Woodland 220 kV Overhead Line which will primarily include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various extents of foundation works, from the breaking out and reconstruction of the concrete foundations to the replacement of shear blocks will occur to several mast structures, painting of mast structures, |

| | |
|----------|---|
| | <p>replacement of insulators, crossarms, stays and/ or fittings on existing structures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the existing conductor along the line with a higher rated conductor; • Associated site development works to gain access to the existing structures including clearance of vegetation, disassembly and reassembly of walls and gate posts and removal and reinstatement of existing fencing; • All other associated and ancillary site development works required for the refurbishment/ uprating of the existing circuit; • No additional structures are proposed along the existing circuit. Any replacement structures will be constructed at, or immediately adjacent to existing structures they will replace, and will be of a generally similar height and appearance.) <p>The Planning Authority issued a decision on 23rd July 2020 stating that the proposed development is <u>Exempted Development</u>.</p> |
| DA130761 | <p>EirGrid Interconnector Limited. Permission for the erection of 2 no. acoustic barriers and all associated site development works on a 0.3 ha site. One barrier will be located within the site to the south-west of the valve coolers. This barrier will be 7 metres high with an overall length of 64.5 metres (32.5 metres of acoustic panels will be fixed to the clad wall of an existing building and 32 metres of panels will be freestanding) and will wrap around one end of the valve coolers. The other barrier will be located to the south-east of the site inside the boundary fence. This barrier will be 2.5 metres high and 90 metres in length. Permission was granted on 15/01/2014 subject to 3 no. conditions. This is Portan Converter Station.</p> |

MCC Comment: There are other applications (and pre-planning consultations) in the Dunboyne North in particular and Kilbride area; and along the route of the proposed 400kV line. These are set out in Appendix 4 and reference Meath Co. Council Planning Application and applications dealt with by the Board, including the current Railway Order Application for the DART + West project. An Bord Pleanála is requested to consider these as part of its assessment.

Fingal Co. Council may provide relevant planning history pertinent to its area to An Bord Pleanála. In particular, the current Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) Project (Remittal Application) which comprises 25km of pipelines should be considered. The applicant states that alignment of the underground cable intersects the alignment of the GDD pipeline in the vicinity of Belcamp Substation but has been designed to accommodate the GDD alignment and design (Section 4.1.1 - Planning Report). The Planning Report (Section 4.1.1) also states that the proposed development (underground cable) largely passes under lands and public roads not affected by extant planning permissions.

It also refers to other relevant EirGrid applications for underground cables (Section 4.1.2.3). Section 4.2 of the Planning Report states that the existing planning permissions will not be adversely affected by the proposed works; and similar 6-step processes have been followed for said applications.

4.0 EU, National, Regional & Local Planning Policy

The following policy documents are applicable in the assessment of this planning application, though the list is not exhaustive, and Section 5 of the applicant's Planning Report covers relevant policy documents (including the European Green New Deal 2019, the Paris Agreement 2015, Europe 2030 Climate and Energy Framework and Energy Roadmap 2050, etc.):

4.1 EU Directive 2009/28/EC, 2018/2001/EU⁷ & EU/2023/2413⁸ (Renewable Energy)

This Directive establishes a common framework for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources. The EU Directive 2009/28/EC, in the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources, sets targets for each EU member state, to be achieved by 2020.

In December 2018, the recast Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU entered into force, aimed at keeping the EU a global leader in renewables and, more broadly, helping the EU to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Building on the 20% target for 2020, it established a new binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32%, with a clause for a possible upwards revision by 2023 and comprises measures for the different sectors to make it happen.

In line with the EU Climate Law, the **targets and measures set in the revised directive should be ambitious enough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% in 2030**. This included raising the overall renewables target (proposed to be increased to 40%), but also strengthened measures for transport or heating and cooling. The Commission sought an energy efficient and circular energy system that facilitates renewables-based electrification and promotes the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels, including hydrogen, in sectors where electrification is not yet a feasible option, such as transport.

The Renewable Energy Directive EU/2023/2413 was adopted at end of 2023 and there is a requirement on Member States to endeavour to increase the share of energy from renewable sources to **45% by 2030**. The new Directive includes a strategic planning element to identify renewables 'acceleration areas' for renewable energy development which must be transposed into Irish law quickly. The aim is to get renewable energy through the system faster. In acceleration areas, the permit-granting procedure shall not exceed 12 months for projects and for offshore projects shall not exceed two years. Outside renewables acceleration areas the permit-granting procedure shall not exceed two years for projects and three years for offshore renewable energy projects. There are implications for EIA and AA.

4.2 Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/renewable-energy/directive-targets-and-rules/renewable-energy-directive_en#directive-2018-2001-eu.

⁸ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202302413

Ireland 2040 is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment. In accordance with Section 3.2 'Eastern and Midlands Region' one of the key future planning and development and place-making policy priorities for the Eastern and Midland Region includes:

Harnessing the potential of the region in renewable energy terms across the technological spectrum from wind and solar to biomass and, where applicable, wave energy, focusing in particular on the extensive tracts of publicly owned peat extraction areas in order to enable a managed transition of the local economies of such areas in gaining the economic benefits of greener energy.

National Strategic Outcome 8 'Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society' states:

'New energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, more renewables focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy. State-owned commercial enterprises are significant players in the energy market, which is subject to an EU regulatory framework. Promotion of renewable energy is supported by policy in the form of a public service obligation levy. The diversification of our energy production systems away from fossil fuels and towards green energy such as wind, wave, solar and biomass, together with smart energy systems and the conversion of the built environment into both generator/consumer of energy and the electrification of transport fleets will require the progressive and strategic development of a different form of energy grid.'

National Policy Objective 55:

'Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050'.

4.3 Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020 (DCENR)

Section 2.1 states that the Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum we achieve our legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.

Section 2.2 states that underpinning the Government's energy and economic policy objectives are the following five Strategic Goals reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020. This high-level strategy is underpinned by the more detailed National Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Strategic Goal 1: Progressively more renewable electricity from onshore and offshore wind power for the domestic and export markets.

4.4 National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) (2012)

The Framework provides the policy context for a **strategic national adaptation response to climate change in Ireland**. It highlights the role of planning and

development in **implementing adaptation measures** and recognises the benefits of wider stakeholder engagement in achieving climate change objectives at a local level. The NCCAF provides an overview of challenges for sectors that are impacted from climate change, including water, coasts, marine, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, energy, transport, communications, insurance, heritage and health.

4.5 National Mitigation Plan 2017

The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in **transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050**. This whole-of-government Plan drew on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments and reflected the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture. The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and begin the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades.

4.6 National Adaptation Framework 2018

The NAF sets out the **national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts**. The NAF was developed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. The NAF builds on the work already carried out under the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF, 2012). The NAF outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation in Ireland. It also aims to improve the enabling environment for adaptation through ongoing engagement with civil society, the private sector, and the research community.

4.7 National Renewable Energy Action Plan Ireland 2020

This is the framework within which Ireland has set out the detailed schemes, policies and measures underway and planned to deliver the trajectory of growth from renewable sources. It was submitted under Article 4 of Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC.

4.8 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (2015), Amendment (2021)

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 is the key policy instrument to address the issue of climate change in Ireland. The Act sets out a roadmap for Ireland's transition towards a low carbon economy and details mechanisms for the implementation of the 'National Low Carbon Transition and Mitigation Plan' (National Mitigation Plan) published in 2017, to lower Ireland's level of greenhouse emissions and a 'National Climate Change Adaptation Framework' (National Adaptation Framework). They will be renewed every five years and are required to include tailored sectoral plans.

The Act requires public bodies to actively consider mitigation and adaptation efforts, drawing on the objectives set out in the National Low-Carbon Roadmap, national adaptation framework and sectoral adaptation plans.

The 2021 Amendment Act aims for net-zero emissions by 2050 and an Interim Target of 51% reduction to be reached by 2030, relative to a baseline of 2018. An

Bord Pleanála and the Local Authorities must be consistent with approved climate action plan, national long term climate action strategy, national adaptation frameworks and sectoral adaptation plans, national climate objectives and mitigation GHGs and adapting to the effects of climate change.

4.9 National Climate Action Plan (NCAP) 2023 and Draft Plan 2024

The NCAP 2023 was prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the first of the Climate Action Plans (since 2019) to be prepared following the introduction of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The 2023 plan implements the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and sets out a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government. It sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

Among the most important measures in the plan is to **increase the proportion of renewable electricity to up to 80% by 2030 and a target of 9 GW from onshore wind, 8 GW from solar, and at least 5 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030**. Section 5.2 'Key Measures and Shifts Required' identifies 'renewable generation' as one of the five most important decarbonisation measures for Ireland. ***'Large scale deployment of renewables, both onshore and offshore, will be critical to decarbonising the power sector as well as enabling the electrification of other technologies. Shifting to an emissions pathway consistent with the sectoral emissions ceilings will require in the region of 22 GW in renewable generation capacity overall by 2030'***.

It identifies the socio-economic impacts within the Midland Region (which includes Co. Westmeath) which must be addressed following the closure of peat-fired power stations and the cessation of commercial peat extraction as a feedstock for power generation. Section 8.2.3 refers to 'peatlands restoration measures' and the largest programme of bog rehabilitation in the State's history, involving a wide array of engineering and ecology works design to encourage and accelerate natural processes. Section 8.2.7 refers to the major investment plans of Bord Na Móna and the ESB with regard to renewable energy infrastructure' in the Midlands Region.

Public consultation on the 2024 NCAP has concluded (04/2024) and it refines and updates the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. It includes a roadmap for taking decisive action to **halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050**, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. It's 'Annex of Actions' includes proposals for a just transition implementation plan for the Midlands Region.

4.10 Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES), 2019 to 2031

Renewable Energy is one of the five primary areas of transition/ key challenges which are at the core of the Strategy. The RSES recognises the need to facilitate the

provision of sufficient electricity to meet increasing demand in the region. One of the key goals of the Climate Action Strategy is to Support the Transition to Low Carbon and Clean Energy:

'Pursue climate mitigation in line with global and national targets and harness the potential for a more distributed renewables-focussed energy system to support the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050'. (NSO 8, 9).

Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 10.20 states the following:

"Support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity and gas supplies, and associated networks, to serve the existing and future needs of the Region and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects that might be brought forward in the lifetime of this Strategy. Including the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to facilitate linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity and gas transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process."

The strategy goes on to state the following:

"The Dublin Region is the major load centre on the Irish electricity transmission system. Approximately one third of total demand is located here, similarly the Eastern Region is a major load centre on the Irish transmission system. The main urban demand centres are composed of a mix of residential, commercial and industrial demand, which is expected to grow up to 2025 and beyond. Developing the grid in the Region will enable the transmission system to safely accommodate more diverse power flows from renewable generation and also to facilitate future growth in electricity demand. These developments will strengthen the grid for all electricity users, and in doing so will improve the security and quality of supply. This is particularly important if the Region is to attract high technology industries that depend on a reliable, high quality, electricity supply."

Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 10.22 states the following:

"Support the reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission and distribution network to facilitate planned growth and transmission/ distribution of a renewable energy focused generation across the major demand centres to support an island population of 8 million people, including: Facilitate the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to allow linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner....."

4.11 Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027

Several sections of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 are relevant to this application. The Meath County Development Plan (MCDP) 2021-2027 aligns with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

In this regard, An Bord Pleanála are invited to consider Appendix A.05 '**Landscape Character Assessment**', A.10 '**Protected Views and Prospects**' and the policies and objectives of the **Infrastructure Strategy** (Section 6.15.3.6), particularly the following:

- **INF POL 46:** To support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity and gas supplies, and associated networks, to serve the existing and future needs of the County

and to facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects that may be brought forward during the lifetime of the plan including the delivery and integration, including linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.

- **INF POL 47:** To co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to ensure adequate power capacity for the existing and future business and enterprise needs of the County.
- **INF POL 48:** To ensure that energy transmission infrastructure follows best practice with regard to siting, design and least environmental impact in the interest of landscape protection.
- **INF OBJ 50:** To seek the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to facilitate linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.

Section 6.15.4 includes an objective in the Section on 'Electricity Networks Infrastructure', as follows:

- **INF OBJ 50:** To seek the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to facilitate linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.

Chapter 8 '**Cultural and Natural Heritage Strategy**' and Sections 8.8 on '**Natural Heritage**' and Sections 8.17 – 8.19 on '**Landscape**', '**Landscape Character Assessment**' '**Views and Prospects**' and '**Green Infrastructure**' of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 are also relevant in the context of the proposed development. Chapter 10 relates to '**Climate Change Strategy**'.

Chapter 11 contains the Council's '**Development Management Guidelines & Standards**', with Section 11.8.1 Energy Development and Section 11.8.3 of note in this regard.

Section 11.8.1 Energy Development

The Council encourages and facilitates early pre-application discussions on these projects. Refer to Chapter, 6 Infrastructure which contains the grounding policies and objectives relevant to energy related development.

- **DM POL 27:** To encourage renewable development proposals which contribute positively to reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint.
- **DM OBJ 76:** In the assessment of individual energy development proposals, the Council will take the following criteria into account:
 - o The proper planning and sustainable development of the area;
 - o The environmental and social impacts of the proposed development;
 - o Traffic impacts including details of haul routes;
 - o Impact of the development on the landscape, (please refer to Appendix 5 Landscape Character Assessment);
 - o Impact on protected Views and Prospects, (please refer to Appendix 10 Protected Views and Prospects);

- Impact on public rights of way and walking routes, (please refer to Appendix 12 Public Rights of Way);
- Connection to the National Grid (where applicable);
- Mitigation features, where impacts are inevitable;
- Protection of designated areas - NHAs, SPAs and SACs, areas of archaeological potential and scenic importance;
- proximity to structures that are listed for protection, national monuments, etc. (Please refer to Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure and Appendices 6-9 inclusive for further details);
- Cumulative Impact of proposal.
- In the assessment of individual proposals, the Council will take the criteria outlined above into account.

The **Landscape Character Assessment** (Appendix 5 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027) for the County provides the following guidance:

Physical Landscape Character

- *To recognise, protect and enhance the unique sense of place provided by every landscape character area and to promote appreciation of landscape character through local design initiatives such as advertising and publication of information in the public (e.g. this Landscape Character Assessment).*
- *To commission further supplementary guidance to assist the achievement of objective 1. For example; enhancement strategies where landscape character areas are not in optimum condition, Village Design Statements for villages and towns that are inextricably linked to their landscape setting, design guides for new development such as tourism, housing, infrastructure corridors and one-off houses, and management plans for sensitive and popular sites.*
- *Every objective and policy should have regard to the need to maintain distinctiveness and variety as the primary asset of all LCA's.*
- *To respect historic patterns of land use to ensure that development and change is appropriate to its setting. Design guidelines should define the character of individual settlements and make recommendations regarding suitable building materials, styles, layouts, scales, etc. The objective of design guidelines may be to encourage local involvement and comment, ensure consistency in development control decisions and allow designs to be developed in response to local context.*
- *To ensure that development, particularly in sensitive landscapes, adheres to tailored design guidelines. Sensitive landscapes include demesne villages and LCAs identified as being sensitive (see section 9).*
- *To establish methods for improving existing landscape character and condition and incentives for landowners and managers to do this, e.g. through the availability of grants, guidelines and promotion of the economic benefits of high value landscapes.*
- *To ensure maximum use of landscape character guidelines they must be fully coordinated with other statutory documents and statutory bodies should be consulted.*
- *To conserve landscapes of significant scenic, geological, ecological, cultural and historic value that contribute to Meath's uniqueness.*
- *Recognise, enhance and maintain the rich mosaic of wildlife habitats including those which are not statutorily protected but which are still highly valuable, including roadside verges, hedgerows and mature trees, canal and minor river corridors, lowland heath areas etc.*

Visual Character

- *To review existing designations for areas of visual quality and to ensure adequate protection of views and vistas that contribute to the appreciation of landscape character.*
- *To maintain scenic vistas and panoramic views from key vantage points and towards key landmarks and features within the landscape.*
- *To maintain the visual integrity of sensitive and exceptional – high value areas.*
- *To increase the visual integrity of sensitive and moderate - low value areas.*

History and Archaeology

- *To accurately assess and define objectives and policies for conservation and preservation of all important historic landscapes and landscape settings in Co Meath to ensure their adequate protection alongside the need to allow public enjoyment of them.*
- *To preserve the integrity of the landscape setting of key historic landscape features for the purposes of maintaining unique and unspoilt areas of landscape character, visual amenity and attractiveness to visitors.*

Other key aspects of the Meath CDP include Chapter 6 Infrastructure Strategy (INF POL 41), Chapter 8 Cultural and Natural Heritage Strategy, Chapter 10 Climate Change Strategy and Chapter 11 Development Management Standards (11.8.1 and 11.8.3 and 11.8.4), CDP Appendices (A.05, A.06, A.09, A.10) and Volume 3 Book of Maps which are associated with the Appendices (including Map 8.6 Views and Prospects, etc.). ABP is directed to other relevant parts of the CDP in the context of their development proposal (e.g. transport, waste management, etc.)⁹.

4.12 Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029¹⁰

Adopted in January 2024, this Plan seeks to create a low carbon and climate resilient County, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action, at the local level. This Plan is aligned to the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

4.13 Meath County Council Economic Strategy

The Economic Development Strategy for Co. Meath 2014-2022 sets out a clear, concise, innovative and evidence-based measures aimed at accelerating the economic transformation, revitalisation and sustainable development of the County. The measures recommended within the Economic Development Strategy seek to promote County Meath to fulfil its economic potential and to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant social, civic, commercial, and residential centre that will be recognised locally, nationally and internationally as a highly attractive and distinctive location in which to conduct business. The revised and new Economic Strategy is currently under review and shall cover the period from 2025-2033.

4.14 Other Relevant Guidelines/ Guidance

Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment, Flood Risk Management and other guidance documents on Appropriate Assessment are relevant

⁹ <https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan>

¹⁰ https://www.meath.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2024-02/Climate%20Action%20Plan%202024%20-%202029_0.pdf

in the context of this application. There is also a County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 – 2020.

MCC Comment: Due regard was given to the aforementioned policy documents and guidance strategies in the assessment of this development proposal. Section 5.3 'Sectoral Policy', i.e. Government and EirGrid policy are set out in Planning Report which accompanies the planning application.

5.0 External Referrals/ Internal Referrals

5.1 Introduction

The application was referred to the following departments within Meath County Council for comment:

| MCC Dept. | Report Status/ Date | Comment |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Transportation (General) | Report Received. 17/05/2024 | Discusses key aspects of the development affecting traffic and transportation, considers the TIA – road closures and durations, traffic management proposals, diversion routes, conflict with water courses and third-party services, impact on planned road improvement works, cable trench impacts, HV cable and joint bays – impacts. 20 no. conditions are recommended. |
| Transportation (Public Lighting) | Report Received 22/05/2024 | No external lighting design as part of the proposed development, therefore - no comment. |
| Archaeology | Report Received 22/04/2024 | EIAR Cultural Heritage Chapter reviewed, is well prepared and presented. It would be helpful to clarify the level of test trenching proposed. No general construction phase monitoring is proposed. This is acceptable if there is a high-level of pre-construction test trenching. |
| Broadband Officer | Report Received 16/05/2024 | No comments. |
| Fire Officer | Report Received 15/05/2024 | No requirement to submit a Fire Safety Certificate application under Part III of the Building Control Regulations for the proposed works. |
| Heritage Officer | Nil Return | |
| Architectural Conservation Officer | Nil Return | |
| Environment (General) | Nil Return | |
| Environment (Flooding/ Surface Water) | Nil Return | |

5.2 Comments/ Reports Received

A summary of the comments received are set out below. Full reports are available in the appendices to this Report. Please refer also to Section 5.1/ Appendices for reports which indicated 'no objection', etc.

5.2.1 Transportation (General) Department notes that part of the route will be through private land from the Woodland substation and the R-156 and between the R-156 and the R-125, with the remainder in the public roads. A Road Opening Licence (ROL) is required for works within the public road. The proposed works will result in delays to road users with spill over to adjacent roads. The Department has no objection to the project; however, 5 no. conditions are recommended to ensure that a ROL is obtained, pre and post works survey on the route and adjacent roads is carried out and a contribution towards the repair of the diversion routes is paid to the Planning Authority. It also identifies the requirements for adequate sightlines at access points to the works, a Construction Stage Traffic Management Plan; and a phasing plan with permanent reinstatement works completed without delay.

5.2.2 Archaeology - Meath County Council's Archaeologist provided comments in relation to details submitted, noting that 20.5km of the proposed cable route will be in Co. Meath, 17km in Co. Dublin, 70% in public roads and 30% in private lands to avoid location-specific constraints. The archaeologist estimates that the green field impact is c. 47.05 ha, though not mentioned in the EIAR. It is noted that the applicant has met with the National Monuments Service, who advised on the archaeological potential of watercourses and mitigation; and Section 13.5 of the EIAR which contains mitigation measures has been agreed.

MCC's Archaeologist reviewed the EIAR Cultural Heritage Chapter and considered it to be well prepared and presented and the NTS (Section 13.5.1) presented a comprehensive mitigation strategy. The applicant proposes an archaeological geophysical survey with is usually best in 30m strips so this survey may extend beyond the application boundaries and will not occur within 5-10 m of metal field boundaries.

It would be helpful to clarify the level of test trenching proposed. No general construction phase monitoring is proposed. This is acceptable if there is a high-level of pre-construction test trenching (i.e. 10-12% of the green field area) and these areas can go forward to construction without monitoring. A limited number of in-road areas are proposed for construction phase monitoring (Section 13.5.2). It is considered that the route has been well-walked and researched, even though photographs and historical mapping of archaeological, architectural and Cultural Heritage features are generally absent.

6.0 Pre-Application Consultation

6.1 Pre-Application Consultation

The applicant submits that Strategic Infrastructure/ Development pre-application meetings were held with An Bord Pleanála on 08/09/2023 and 28/11/2023 (Pre-

Application Ref. ABP-317599-23). Further details are provided in the 'Statutory Particulars – Report Final' including consultation with Meath Co. Council. Refer to Section 2.3 of the Planning Report submitted with the application.

It references the consultation which took place with Prescribed Bodies and Agencies including Meath and Fingal County Councils, DAA, ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, IAA, IE, UE, TII, NPWS, NMS and IFI, etc.

EirGrid submits that consultation took place with Meath County Council on:

- 10/11/2022
- 30/03/2023
- 19/07/2023
- 26/10/2023
- 15/11/2023

Such meetings including discussion on traffic disruptions, road network, flood plains, adjacent planning applications, removal of hedgerows, M3 Junction and engagement with other stakeholders. Policy and application requirements (including EIAR).

EirGrid also refer to the High Voltage (HV) Interface Form which was established in 2023 to coordinate the electricity and roads sectors for the development and extension of the HV electricity grid. This includes EirGrid, ESB Networks, DECC, DOT, TII, CCMA, Roads Management Office and Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. Reference is made to a February 2024 workshop where the proposed development was presented to attendees including MCC, FCC, TII and DAA.

7.0 Planning Assessment

7.1 Introduction

The following seeks to consider and where appropriate, provide comments on items requested by An Bord Pleanála (listed in Section 1.1 of this Report). It should also be read in conjunction with Sections 1-6 of this Report. The development description is set out in Section 2.1 of this Report.

The documents submitted include a Planning Report, AA Screening, Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

According to the **application form**, the proposed development is located mainly along existing road and pathways, with some areas located within zoned lands, as follows:

Meath County Council (MCC):

- RA – Rural Area
- E2 - General Enterprise and Employment
- A2 New Residential
- C1 Mixed Use
- TU – Transport and Utilities
- F1 - Open Space
- A1 Existing Residential
- E3 - Warehousing and Distribution

Fingal County Council (FCC):

- RS - Residential
- FP – Food Park

- OS – Open Space
- DA – Dublin Airport
- GE – General Employment
- GB - Greenbelt
- HT – High Technology

Existing use of the site and proposed use of the site is as follows:

Cable Route

- Existing Use: Agriculture and Public Roads
- Proposed Use: Agriculture and Public Roads with underground Electricity Transmission and associated infrastructure.

Connection Points (existing Woodland and Belcamp Substations)

- Existing Use: Electricity Transmission and associated infrastructure; Agriculture (with planning permission for Electricity Transmission and associated infrastructure)
- Proposed Use: Electricity Transmission and associated infrastructure.

Temporary Construction Compounds, Laydown Areas and Passing Bays

- Existing Use: Agriculture and Public Road
- Proposed Use: Temporary Construction Compounds, Laydown Areas and Passing Bays.

There is an existing underground cable route within the application site and there are existing substations at Woodland and Belcamp.

The site is in Flood Zone C, apart from minor local areas near watercourses. A Flood Risk Assessment accompanies the application for approval.

The application will take place close to recorded National Monuments.

Existing buildings (m²) at Belcamp Substation comprise 2,326m² & Woodland Substation comprise 427m² with proposed works (m²) within the application site of 1,745m².

7.2 Main Planning Considerations

It is considered that the main planning considerations are:

- Principle of Development
- Appropriate Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Design & Layout
- Traffic, Transportation, etc.
- Water Services/ Other Utilities

7.2.1 Principle of the Development

EirGrid are seeking to link two substations with 37.5 km of 400kV underground cable. The Planning Report submitted with the application refers to the need for the development, relating to increased economic growth particularly in the eastern region and associated electricity demand, increasing wind energy connections from the west of the country, the 80% renewable electricity target for 2030 as per the Climate Action Plan and the enabling transmission infrastructure required to deliver a low carbon energy future. EirGrid submit that the proposal aligns with national, regional and local planning policy and will strengthen the electricity network, its reliability and security.

The Woodland 400kV substation is of strategic importance within the electricity transmission grid with several major circuits connected and further high voltage infrastructure projects proposed including a current SID application for the Meath-Kildare Grid Upgrade, North South Interconnector and substation improvement works. The proposed 400kV *underground* cable circuit will meet the 138km north-south interconnector (an *overhead* 400kV line) to extend from the substation at Woodland through Meath, Cavan and Monaghan and onwards to Co. Tyrone. Permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for sections in the Republic of Ireland in 2016 and planning permission was subsequently granted in Northern Ireland.

EirGrid Local Security of Supply (LSoS) Multi-Year Plan 2023-2027 identifies the proposal as a major project to contribute to the resolution of security of supply issues in the Dublin region. The process followed EirGrid's six-step Framework for Grid Development. It is submitted that multi-criteria analysis was applied to decision making including in considering a no. of technical and routing alternatives and considered environmental, socio-economic, technical, deliverability and economic criteria.

Alternatives considered included 'do nothing', 'high-level route alternatives', 'route open assessment' and 'best performing option', considering the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation activities involved.

MCC Comment: As set out in Meath County Council Development Plan 2021-2027, particularly in Chapter/ Section 6, a development proposal which will strengthen the grid connection, allow for greater capacity and underpin a transition to low carbon society, is acceptable in principle. It is also consistent with regional and national planning policy, including the measures outlined in the Climate Action Plan 2023 and Draft 2024.

The proposed works take place in the rural area of Co. Meath and the zoned areas of Dunboyne North and Kilbride, within the existing roads infrastructure and private lands. Consideration has been given to the zoning objectives in the MCDP. Utilities are all permitted uses under most zoning objectives, except for R1 – Rail Corridor - has a single purpose use which is to protect the designed route from development which would compromise its future delivery, so the suitability of individual uses is not set out. The site at Woodland is an existing 'hub' with in the transmission network.

At Chainage 15250 – 15500 the proposed cable route extends beyond the planning application boundary to Waterbody (WB14). An Bord Pleanála are invited to consider whether works are proposed outside the red line boundary.

7.2.2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

A Screening for AA was carried out for the proposed development, and it discusses construction phase activities, stating that works at the substations will take place in parallel with the underground cable works.

At Woodland substation, the proposed works will be in the extension to the hardstand compound which forms part of MCC PI. Ref. 221550 which was granted permission. It is intended that a temporary construction compound will be set up in the south-east corner of the site. An Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) plant will be installed over a shallow founded reinforced concrete base and also a reinforced concrete bund for the reactor.

Delivery will comprise an abnormal load, with the reactor slid into place on its bund of a trailer and a mobile crane will be used to lift the new AIS plant into position. Underground cable will be connected from the south-west corner of the substation site. Testing and commissioning follow as the next step.

Surge arrestors are up to 12.6m high and 2 no. gantries at 25m high with one 3m high lightning rod on top of each gantry.

The *Construction Phase for Underground Cables* follows 3 no. phases:

- Phase 1: Installation of joint bay structures and passing bays structures.
- Phase 2: Excavation and installation of cable ducts; and
- Phase 3: Installation and jointing of cables.

Duct and Joint Bay installation is considered the most intensive component of the construction phase, with the greatest level of impact on rolling road closures (to through traffic) and diversions. It is anticipated that 40-50m/ day can be achieved in unconstrained areas or 10-20m at constrained areas where there are existing utilities.

49 no. Joint Bays are typically every 750m with intervals of 550-900m and will be installed in 3 no. days. Once installed, temporary backfilling and temporary road reinstatement occurs until cable installation, when it will be reopened. Road reinstatement follows, moving in sequence along the route. Joints Bays are 2.5m (W) x 10m (L) and 2.5m (D)

Cable trench excavation to 1.3m (W), 1.3m (D) in the public road; and 1.8m (D) on private land. 26km will be in the public road and 11.5km in private lands. Cable pulling and jointing will commence when the trenching is well advanced along the cable route, from the Joint Bays. Road closure will be required or 14 no. Passing Bays where possible to facilitate traffic via signal-controlled lane adjacent to the Joint Bay. Passing Bays will result in the need for temporary storage of topsoil but will include extended drainage, filter drains, culverts, etc.

The applicant has provided imagery which illustrates the cable ducts, joint bays and typical road reinstatement as follows:



Fig. 10: Examples of proposed works (Source: AA/ EIAR Reports)

There are 23 no. proposed watercourse crossings, which are considered hydrological pathways to European Sites, namely the Tolka, Dunboyne Stream, Ward River, Sluice and Mayne watercourses. The applicant states that, following discussion with IFI, fluming is the preferred option for cut crossings with final approval for the approach to be taken in consultation with IFI. Where watercourses are flumed, the dry works area will be isolated by installing an impermeable barrier between the watercourse and works area. Watercourses are dammed and diverted whilst the cable is installed beneath the bed of the watercourse and once reinstated, the water resumes its natural course.

Surveys undertaken include site walkovers of terrestrial habitats, breeding and wintering bird surveys between October 2022 and August 2023. Wintering bird surveys extended 800m either side of the application site. Breeding bird surveys extended a

minimum of 250m. The habitat survey area extended a minimum of 150m from the application boundary where visible/ accessible. Points of interest along the route were assessed on foot and not all the habitats within the survey boundary were visited during field surveys with gaps addressed by aerial imagery. Bat roosts survey considered trees/ structures directly affected by the development/ construction, etc. A 100-150m corridor along the application site was applied for fauna species. 100m either side of the site was considered for aquatic habitats and eDNA sampling was planned in 16 watercourses at 18 sampling points with only 14 accessed (for Atlantic Salmon, Lamprey, European Eel and White-clawed crayfish).

The Zone of Influence was determined by source-pathway-receptor model.

Aside from roads, habitats within the application site comprise agricultural fields, treelines, hedgerows, depositing lowland rivers, drainage ditches with lower abundance of woodlands, scrub, semi-natural grasslands and marsh and artificial habitats.

There are records of multiple protected, Annex II and Qualifying Interest birds within 2km of the application site. WFD status for the watercourse crossings is poor to moderate with most 'at risk' and some 'under review'.

A site walkover recorded 4 no. Third Schedule (EU 2011) invasive species within 150m of the proposed development, but these are not expected to cause significant impacts on European Sites via terrestrial or hydrological link.

The AA Screening identifies 19 no. European Sites, which all have a hydrological connection to the application site. An assessment of likely significant effects was carried out. The potential for significant effects on the above-named European sites could not be excluded, including the potential for significant effects associated with:

- Changes in water quality because of a pollution event from spillages, sedimentation/ silt run off and fuel/ oil leaks entering watercourses during construction works impacting on QI habitats and QI bird species protected, supporting and functionally linked habitats associated with the sites; and
- Human-induced disturbance in form of noise and vibrations during the Construction and Operational Phase affecting foraging/ roosting QI bird species in functionally linked habitats.

Based on a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, the Screening exercise could not exclude that the proposed development, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, would have significant effects on 14 European sites in view of these sites' conservation objectives. 5 no. European Sites were screened out. In-combination effects were considered including those of landuse plans and planning applications.

Therefore, an NIS was prepared to examine the implications of the proposed development, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of the following European sites in view of these sites' conservation objectives:

- Malahide Estuary SAC,
- Baldoye Bay SAC,

- Malahide Estuary SPA,
- Baldoyle Bay SPA,
- North Bull Island SPA,
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA,
- North-West Irish Sea SPA,
- Rogerstown Estuary SPA,
- Ireland's Eye SPA,
- Lambay Island SPA,
- Skerries Islands SPA,
- River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA,
- Boyne Estuary SPA, and
- Dundalk Bay SPA.

Section 2.2 of the NIS sets out information in relation to the Field Surveys conducted. Details regarding consultation is set out at Section 2.3 including discussions with Meath and Fingal County Councils, NPWS, IFI with issues raised.

The wintering bird surveys between 2022 and 2023 found several QI species using agricultural fields adjacent to the site and other habitats within the surveyed area of 800m to either side of the application boundary.

The NIS sets out the QIs/ SCIs potentially exposed to risk in each European Site, considers its conservation status, conservation objectives and appraises the potential impacts.

Noise up to 83dB is predicted, though only temporarily and locally during HDD works and the construction of Joint Bays and Passing Bays. For noise disturbance for some birds (such as golden plover, etc.), auditory disturbance of greater than 70dB (as experienced at the bird) has the potential to elicit a high-level disturbance effect.

The NIS details mitigation measures at Section 6, which have been prescribed to ensure the proposed development will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. These relate to ecological clerk of works, pollution, open cut trenching, working adjacent to watercourses, accidental pollution and disturbance.

An in-combination assessment was carried out and Section 7.1 concluded that there is potential for in-combination effects from local authority CDPs and 41 no. projects including the DART + West project, other permissions around Woodlands Substation, the Greater Dublin Drainage Project, etc.

The report concludes that based on the best available scientific information and professional judgement, it is considered that with the mitigation measures detailed above, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of those European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects in light of those European sites' conservation objectives. The NIS contains information which An Bord Pleanála, may consider in making its own complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions, and upon which it is capable of determining that all reasonable scientific doubt has been removed as to the effects of the proposed development, alone or in-combination with any other plan or project, on the integrity of the relevant European sites.

MCC Comment: In the event of a grant of permission, An Bord Pleanála are requested to include appropriate planning conditions that will implement the mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statement.

7.2.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Under the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2023, the relevant details for EIA are contained in Schedule 5 – Development for the Purposes of Part 10; Article 93; Part 2. S.I. No. 383 of 2023 Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 came into force on 24 July 2023 and introduced a new class of development into Part 2.

This states that EIAR is required in the following cases:

(a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings, undertaken as part of a wider proposed development, and not as an agricultural activity that must comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011, where the length of field boundary to be removed is above 4 kilometres, or where re-contouring is above 5 hectares, or where the area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries is above 50 hectares.

The applicant conducted an EIA Screening Report which concluded that the proposal comes within the classes of development likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The following environmental topics are explored in the EIAR:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Population | • Traffic and Transport |
| • Human Health | • Agronomy & Equine |
| • Air Quality | • Waste |
| • Climate | • Material Assets |
| • Noise and Vibration | • Landscape and Visual |
| • Biodiversity | • Risk of Major Accidents and/ or Disasters |
| • Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology | • Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Interactions |
| • Hydrology | |
| • Archaeology, Architectural Heritage & Cultural Heritage | |

Consultation

The applicant engaged in non-statutory public consultation seeking early involvement of the public and stakeholders so that views were considered in the preparation of the EIAR. This included consultation on 4 no. route options (Sept. – Nov. 2022), consultation on the emerging best performing option (March – May 2023), engagement with landowners during 2022 and 2023 to gain input into potential routing, formal pre-planning with ABP (Sept. – Nov. 2023), EIA Scoping (Nov. – Dec. 2023), technical engagement with stakeholders (gathering data, emerging issues); and statutory consultation as part of this Section 182A application.

MCC Comment: It is noted that a previous EirGrid project for a 400kV cable did not require EIAR but was accompanied by a Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR). With the introduction of new regulations in 2023, this became a requirement for this (current)

application. Public participation is a key component of EIAR, and it is a matter for ABP to determine if there was sufficient opportunity for same.

Need for the Development and Description of the Proposed Development

The applicant outlined the reasons for the proposed project including the need to address increased electricity demand in the region, the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuel for electricity generation, facilitate further on and offshore renewable energy; and assist in achieving climate action targets of 80% of electricity coming from renewables by 2030 and support the Climate Action Plan targets, etc. It is submitted that this project will improve the quality of power will be improved in the region.

A new 37.5 kilometres underground cable is proposed to be constructed in a trench along public roads and private lands, connecting the Woodland and Belcamp substations. 20.5km is in Co. Meath and 17km in Fingal, Co. Dublin. 70% of the proposed underground cable will be in the public roads, while 30% will be in private lands to avoid location-specific constraints. As per the AA Screening/ NIS, details of the proposed works at the substation and underground cable and a description of the route (as noted above) are provided in the EIAR.

Cable construction phase activities (3 no. phases) and substation construction phase activities are set out (as per 7.2.2 above). A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) contains all mitigation measures which are considered necessary to protect the environment. It contains an *Environmental Incident Response Plan*; a *Construction Traffic Management Plan*; a *Construction Resource and Waste Management Plan*; a *Surface Water Management Plan*; and *Invasive Species Management Plan*.

It is submitted that all areas where vegetation removal and topsoil stripping has occurred along the trenches and for the TCCs, HDD Compounds, temporary access tracks and Passing Bays, will be reinstated following installation of the proposed cable route.

Routine maintenance of the route is required with access to link boxes and communications chambers for annual inspection or as necessary. Permanent access tracks will be used to access off-road sections, with EirGrid stating that it will co-ordinate with relevant landowners to minimise disruption. Consultation on traffic management is proposed. A **permanent easement of 5m above the cable trench is required** and a wider easement at Joint Bays, etc. including **15m from Woodland to the R-156** in Co. Meath, which the applicant states will be discussed and agreed with landowners. ESB Networks will manage Woodland Substation and no personnel are needed to operate it. Annual maintenance (once a year) will occur there.

Alternatives

The alternatives considered were developed around a 6-step Framework for Grid Development initiatives which involve detailed studies and assessments. It is submitted that alternative options were considered via a thorough and consistent multi-criteria analysis (MCA) which seeks to balance considerations of an environmental, socio-economic, technical, deliverability; and economic nature; with reports prepared on each step.

Three no. main alternatives were considered:

- **Do-nothing** – assessed to be unacceptable due to increase demand, growing economic development and population, requirements of the Climate Action Plan, need for a solution

within the North Dublin Corridor was identified in 2017, need for security of supply and ability to integrate renewable energy into the Grid.

- **Route Alternatives** – a process of shortlisting 21 technical options to 7 options including a mix of OHL, underground cables and new transmission route, following public consultation 4 best-performing options were explored and reassessed using MCA to select an option to bring forward. A final route was selected for this application. EirGrid sought to avoid motorways, town centres, use of private land, natural and built heritage, impact on communities, etc. and constraints such as road width and quality, presence of existing services, SACs, SPAs, etc.
- **Design Alternatives** – Specific locations were re-examined and refined to provide more certainty on specific locations including off-road sections. Discussions, engagement, further surveys and assessments were carried out to determine the best location for the entire cable route (e.g. M3 crossings, off-road section east of the M1, individual off-road watercourse crossings, etc.).

Environmental Topics – Each section considers the likely significant effects including residual impacts because of the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

Population

This section considers demographics, community composition, land use, the location of residential, commercial, community receptors and recreational (including tourism) amenities as well as economic activity in general. The topics explored are Amenity; Accessibility and Severance; Land Use/ Land Take; and the Local Economy. A 300m buffer area from the application boundary was applied. It is stated that 13,024 people live in this area. Settlements including Dunboyne, Fosterstown, Swords and Darndale. 652 residential receptors are within 300m, 11 community and 56 commercial receptors. It is stated that there are no tourism receptors.

Most land surrounding the application site is agricultural with some urban residential areas and industrial areas. Reference is made to levels of economic activity in Co. Meath. No significant impacts during the construction and operational phases or significant residual negative impacts are identified. Negative, slight and temporary impacts on amenity (air quality, noise, vibration, traffic, transport and landscape and visual) are anticipated with a negative, moderate and temporary impact on accessibility and severance, though this is expected to be short-term with access maintained to residential, commercial and community receptors.

Positive, slight and short-term impact on employment is expected. No potential impact on residential, commercial or community/ recreational facilities; and a negative, slight and temporary impact on the local economy is anticipated. No mitigation is proposed which is specific to this receptor.

Human Health

This section considers the influence of lifestyle and the physical, social, and economic environment (as influenced by open space, leisure and recreation; employment and income; transport modes, access and connections; air quality; and noise and vibration) on human health. It uses Census small area statistics encompassing c. 65-90 households to capture impacts from construction noise, air pollution or on land use. It presents data for Final and Co.

Meath referring to the proportion of people with good or very good self-reported health being higher than the national average for small areas in Co. Meath.

Negative impacts, which are not significant and generally temporary or short-term are identified for open space, leisure and recreation, viability of income/ operations, transport modes, access and connections for most of the study area (particularly for more vulnerable road users), air quality and noise and vibration, particularly for nearby residents, users of nearby community facilities and places of employment with short term exposure. Neutral, imperceptible and short-term impacts on employment are expected.

No significant health impacts were identified for the population in the study area during construction; and implementation of the CEMP and mitigation and monitoring measures for other assessment topics such as traffic and transport, air quality, and noise and vibration, will reduce the impacts on human health. Other mitigation includes ensuring that traffic diversion routes are suitable for all road users (pedestrian, cyclist, horse riders, vehicles, etc.), a Community Liaison Officer will act as a single point of contact for members of the community with easy contact options for feedback. Targeted mitigation for the development seeks to minimise adverse effects associated with increased traffic flows on nearby roads.

No direct impact on human health is expected due to EMFs and EirGrid design standards abides by existing public exposure guidelines from the International Council on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. No operational stage impacts are expected.

Air Quality

An air quality assessment considers the potential impacts on air quality at sensitive human and ecological receptors during construction and operational phases. Air quality is affected by fossil fuel emissions, dust, etc. which can affect human health and sensitive ecological receptors. Key air pollutants identified are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), dust emissions from construction activities and particulate matter - PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Temporary dust impacts generated by construction activities, temporary increases in air pollutants (vehicle movements, plant and machinery) and increases in air pollutant concentrations due to additional vehicular movements during operation have been considered.

The western half of the application site is located primarily within Air Quality Zone D – Rural Ireland while the eastern half of the site will be within Zone A within the Dublin Conurbation. Dublin Airport has its own monitoring site which identifies air quality within limit thresholds.

Based on the 2023 *Institute of Air Quality Management Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction*, the applicant has determined that there is a low risk of dust impacts for earthwork and construction activities, a medium risk for track out at human receptors. There is potential for infrequent, short-term episodes when baseline dust deposition rates could be increased by an amount that residents could perceive. There is a negligible to low risk to human health as there is limited potential for emissions of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) to increase baseline concentrations to a value that is above the limit values set for the protection for human health.

Mitigation measures are proposed in the EIAR and CEMP to ensure the effects of dust emissions on human health are not significant. Changes to vehicular movements due to the

construction phase is considered negligible and not significant. Limited traffic movements are anticipated during the operational phase so is considered not significant.

No significant residual impacts are anticipated on air quality during construction or operational phases and no exceedances of ambient pollutant concentrations are anticipated.

Climate

This assessment considers the vulnerability of the proposed development to climate change and the likely potential impact of the proposed development to climate. Vulnerability of assets is considered within the application boundary area; and GHG assessment considers the construction and operational areas within the site and the transportation of construction materials or offsite waste processing. Baseline emission inventories of 2018 and 2016 have been applied for Co. Meath and Fingal. Emissions created in Co. Meath were 6% of the national total with 2% coming from Fingal. An increase due to the construction phase of 0.3% over a 42-month period is not considered a significant impact.

Good practice measures will be implemented during the construction phase including reuse of excavated materials on site, reuse of construction waste, procuring locally sourced materials to reduce transport emissions, limiting material quantity requirements and a plan to reduce GHG emissions during construction. GHG emissions associated with the whole life cycle period are low, though the greatest climate change risks are associated with changes in ground temperatures and ground movement. The infrastructure will be designed to operate in varying climatic conditions; therefore, no significant effects or mitigation is required.

It is anticipated that the development will assist with providing a low-carbon electricity grid which will, over time, partially offset the direct emissions resulting from the construction and operation of the development.

Noise & Vibration

The Noise and Vibration assessment considers the potential impacts on dwellings and other sensitive receptors (including schools and nursing homes) during the construction and operational phases. Different study areas were used for construction noise and vibration; and operational impacts which were assessed as the closest sensitive receptor.

Main noise sources are from road traffic and airport noise and the proposed cable route will cross the M3, M2 and M1 and R156, R157, R147, R121, R135, R122, R108 and R132.

Of relevance to Co. Meath is the existing rail noise, particularly where the Dublin to M3 Parkway railway line runs close to the M3 and the closest sensitive receptor to the Woodland Substation is a dwelling located over 600m from the substation.

The assessment identified an **adverse, significant and temporary** potential noise impact to receptors (nearby dwellings) due to HDD works at the M2 and M3 crossings. It is anticipated that noise and vibration levels will exceed the significance thresholds and the duration of the works is likely to exceed the criteria for significance stated in the noise guidance.

Other adverse effects, which are not deemed significant include construction works at the substations, each phase of the cable laying process from the works required to remove

vegetation, the installation of joint and passing bays, excavation and installation of cable ducts and installation and jointing of cables including works to proposed access roads. However, the duration is temporary. Similarly adverse, not significant and temporary effects of noise is anticipated due to additional traffic on some roads, traffic diversions because of the in-road works.

Other neutral to adverse impacts identified are vibratory compaction impacts to receptors, though cosmetic damage to buildings is not anticipated. Noise due the presence of construction traffic is considered neutral and similarly vibration impact due to construction traffic.

Mitigation measures are proposed for the HDD works including the use of temporary acoustic enclosures/ barriers, community engagement, selecting appropriate plant, and following good construction practices, as outlined in the EIAR and the CEMP, will be implemented in full and will ensure that the final residual noise and vibration impacts will be reduced to adverse, not significant and temporary.

The applicant states that road closures and diversion routes will be minimised with advance warning provided to affected residents. Four of the proposed routes are anticipated to have **adverse, significant and temporary residual noise impacts**, over a period of <1 year.

Impacts of additional equipment (noise and vibration) at Woodland and Belcamp substations is considered neutral and not significant with no impacts likely during the operational phase.

Despite implementation of mitigation measures, it is anticipated that there will be **significant residual noise impacts during the construction phase resulting from four diversion routes**, though no other residual impacts are anticipated during construction/ operation.

Biodiversity

An ecology assessment considers the likely impacts on ecological receptors and considers published data, field surveys of habitats, bats, ground mammals, birds, amphibians (frogs and common newts) and reptiles and water sampling for smooth newt, freshwater fish and white-clawed crayfish.

The site does not overlap with any SACs or SPAs. The NIS proposes mitigation to avoid adverse effects on European Sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

Much of the study area comprises agricultural farmland (arable and pasture) intersected by hedgerows, treelines, river catchments and roads. The main habitats within the application site include woodland and scrub, grassland and marsh, exposed rock/ disturbed ground and cultivated and built land.

Surveys found the presence of 5 no. non-native (listed) invasive plant species within or close to the application boundary, 5 species of bat in the vicinity of the site, 19 no. potential roost features (though no bats were recorded emerging from same), 10 badger setts and signs of badger activity, evidence of otter close to Nuttstown east of the application site, though none at watercourse crossings, evidence of protected mammals (red squirrel, hedgehog and red deer), evidence of common frog, no smooth newt or common lizard, evidence of 3 fish species

of conservation interest (lamprey, brown trout, European eel). Evidence of other fish species (three-spined stickleback, minnow and stone loach) was also recorded in watercourses in the vicinity. White-clawed crayfish was not found. 18 breeding bird species and 27 wintering bird species were recorded in the vicinity of the site.

A series of potential impacts on ecological habitats and species were identified because of the proposed construction activities including temporary and permanent loss of habitats (particularly off-road sections), habitat degradation, fragmentation, changes in water quality from hydrological impacts, sedimentation, bank erosion, chemical contamination, changes in hydrology and riparian habitat degradation, accidental pollution, spread of invasive species, species mortality, etc.

Significant impacts were identified at local level importance, though impacts to fish and aquatic invertebrates, Atlantic Salmon, Lamprey spp., hedgerow and treeline would be local – county level importance. Otter, European eel and White-clawed crayfish would be a county level impact which impacts on European Sites would be of international and national level importance.

A series of mitigation measures are proposed including the appointment of an ecological clerk of works, site management and pollution control measures, timing of vegetation clearance, establishment of exclusion zones, visual and noise screening barriers to prevent disturbance to QI species, plant with lowest noise type, covering of excavations at night to prevent animal mortality/ trapping, various control measures, etc.

The applicant submits that along most of the cable route, the road will be reinstated and vegetation that was removed will be re-instated, except along the permanent easement, at Joint Bays, along permanent access tracks, and where over-cable planting is not technically viable, for example due to asset risk.

It is also submitted that all planting will take account of the vegetation that has been removed and typical species of the local landscape with hedgerows and treelines reinstated to a species-rich condition (i.e., five native woody species per 30m (excluding brambles), with no use of commercial seed), comprising only native species. All other sites will be returned as close as possible to their pre-existing condition, using the same species.

Operational impacts are not considered to be significant. However significant residual impacts are predicted for dry calcareous grassland, wet grassland, mixed broadleaved woodland, hedgerows, treelines, scrub, immature woodland, and individual trees where there is permanent habitat loss.

There will be a **negative, significant and medium to long-term residual impacts** at Local to County Level from the loss of hedgerows and treelines until new species rich hedgerows and treelines are established.

There will be a **negative, significant and permanent residual impact** estimated at County Level from the loss of mature trees as this cannot be compensated with replacement planting due to the time taken for trees to reach maturation. There is no scope for wet grassland at Belcamp Substation, where the grasslands are dry, or compensation options for dry

calcareous and neutral grassland. As such, the grassland losses are assessed as **negative, significant and permanent residual impacts**, estimated at a Local (High) geographic scale.

As per the Kildare-Meath 400kV project, an offsite compensation strategy for hedgerows, treelines and individual trees is proposed with reference to biodiversity policy including CDP policies. It is stated that a Draft **Over Cable Planting Strategy** is being developed with the ESB but is subject to a designers' risk assessment. **It may be assumed that planting cannot be carried out while maintaining technical and safety standards.**

Therefore, an offsite compensatory planting is assumed to be the only action available to replace hedgerows/ treelines removed from off-road underground cable route sections, outside the application site to a **minimum of 130% compensatory offsite planting** contributing to a net gain. It is planned to commence planting before or alongside the construction phase. It is submitted that candidate sites in Co. Meath and Co. Dublin have been identified which may be suitable.

MCC Comment: Significant hedgerow/ tree removal is proposed which will could have a significant local impact on the ecological corridors (protected under Article 10 of the Habitats Directive). These would have *county importance* and provide several ecosystem services¹¹. Such sites improve the ecological coherence of sites protected for nature conservation.

ABP are invited to consider the cumulative impact of the proposed removal of hedgerow and trees across this project in combination with the Kildare-Meath 400kV cable and substation upgrade project.

In the event of a grant of permission, a planning condition for written agreement with Meath and Fingal Planning Authorities is recommended which requires submission of the following:

- Planting locations (considered suitable by each Local Authority);
- Specific details of species which shall be native to the area;
- Timescale for planting; and
- Programme for replacement planting in the event of failure; or
- Option for agreeing an alternative measure which benefits an action in Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Meath and Final Local Authorities, subject to their agreement (e.g. wooded area, etc.).

An Bord Pleanála are invited to consider the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in the re-instatement or re-establishment of hedgerows/ tree corridors along the proposed route, particularly in the context of the use of native species of local provenance.

An Invasive Species Eradication and Management Strategy is also required with monitoring post completion of works, given the potential for the construction activities to import terrestrial or aquatic invaders.

Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology

This section considers the potential impacts on land, soils and geology, and hydrogeology (groundwater) during construction and operation of the proposed development. A buffer of 250m from the application boundary has been considered.

¹¹ <http://www.npws.ie/media/Biodiversity%20Plan%20text%20English.pdf>

Geology mainly comprises limestone and alluvium soils along the courses of rivers and their floodplains with a range of land uses including agriculture, forest, urban uses, etc. Aquifers beneath the application site are identified as 'locally important' or 'poor' with 9 no. groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems identified in the study area.

The construction phase has the potential to have a **significant impact on the groundwater quality** of public supply wells may be impacted including the Inner Protection Area of Dunboyne Public Water Supply, **a significant impact on groundwater flow and quality of unknown private water supplies**, and a moderate impact on groundwater flow and quality of potential GWDTEs. Other impacts on soils, geology and hydrogeology impacts are expected to be imperceptible to slight. The proposal will not jeopardize the achievement of WFD objectives.

It is proposed to apply standard best practice pollution prevention measures as set out in the CEMP (control of run-off, spillages, safe storage of materials, use of PPE for gas/ radon/ contaminated land, etc.), consult further with Úisce Éireann, monitor and report impacts and/ or install clay bunds, etc.

In the absence of mitigation, there are **potential significant effects on groundwater flow and quality of unknown private water supplies** and a potential moderate impact on groundwater flow of GWDTEs, however following implementation of same, there will be no significant residual impacts on soils, geology and hydrogeology due to construction or operation.

MCC Comment: ABP are requested to consider any comments from Úisce Éireann in relation to public water supplies in Dunboyne or that may be affected by the proposed development, to ensure there is a safe and secure drinking water supply available.

Hydrology

The development is in the Liffey and Dublin Bay and the Nanny Delvin catchments and this section of the EIAR addresses hydrology, including surface water drainage; hydromorphology; surface water quality including surface water supply and wastewater discharge; WFD assessment; and flood risk.

Waterbodies including the Dunboyne Stream, Rye Water, Tolka, Pinkeen, Ward, Sluice and Mayne Rivers and numerous non-designated watercourses are present in the area such as ditches/ drains. There are no surface water abstractions within the area or WFD drinking water protected rivers. The main impacts of construction/ operation are likely to be pollution due to sediment runoff, spillages, etc., changes to drainage patterns, disturbance of natural bed material and features and flood risk.

There is a requirement for a permanent crossing of the Dunboyne Stream_010 to allow for the provision of the new permanent access track extending north from the R156 Regional Road to Joint Bay 1. A detailed design will need to be developed for such a crossing.

A Flood Risk Assessment determined that much of the site is in a Flood Zone C (fluvial) apart from minor local areas near watercourses, with a low risk of flooding and low impact on

surrounding areas due to pluvial flooding. Given the proposed will be located underground, it is submitted that there will be no risk of flooding to them once the works have been completed. A Surface Water Management Plan contains controls and mitigation measures for avoiding, preventing or reducing any significant adverse impacts on the surface water environment during construction. Construction Method Statements are to be agreed with IFI, follow requirements for closed seasons (e.g. for spawning, etc.) and undertake fluming.

There is the potential for changes in the baseline hydromorphology of the water body due to a permanent culvert crossing which is assessed to be a **significant impact**. The applicant proposes post-construction management and maintenance, including sediment and debris clearance, riparian vegetation management, and structure repair or maintenance as and when required by regular inspection.

It is submitted that following the implementation of mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual impacts on hydrology and the achievement of WFD objectives will not be jeopardized.

MCC Comment: In the event of a grant of permission, ABP are requested to consider recommended conditions proposed in relation to flood risk and surface water management.

Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage

The EIAR considers published and unpublished documents, LiDAR data, aerial imagery and historical mapping and a site inspection/ walkover survey. Evidence of a range of archaeological periods have been identified along the route including the Bronze Age and Iron Age, etc.

Within the application boundary, the following has been identified - 8 no. recorded monuments (RMP), 6 no. sites on the Sites and Monuments Record, 2 no. protected structures (RPS), 1 no. NIAH structure, 10 no. Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs), and 194 cultural heritage assets, comprising 38 cultural heritage sites, 61 assets identified from the LiDAR data and 98 townland boundaries.

No Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) are located within the study area.

1 no. recorded monument (AY_47) (a mound) will be removed because of construction activities (between Chainage 34,850 and Chainage 34,950) which will have a **direct very significant impact**. There is also the potential for accidental damage to a graveyard wall, which is also a Recorded Monument (AY_24), between Chainage 23,975 to Chainage 24,025 which will result in a **very significant impact**.

Construction may also have a direct impact on any previously unknown archaeological remains on land or in/ adjacent to watercourses.

Most of an enclosure (LI_40; between Chainage 22,100 and Chainage 22,200) and 3 ring ditches (CH_78; between Chainage 35,750 and Chainage 35,950) will be removed because of construction which will result in **direct very significant impacts**. The footings of a small group of buildings (LI_08, Chainage 2650) will be removed, e ring-ditches and the partial

removal of two ring-ditches (CH_62, between Chainage 325 and Chainage 725) which will result in **direct significant impacts**.

Half of an enclosure (CH_75) between Chainage 26,800 and Chainage 26,925 and curvilinear features forming part of CH_67 between Chainage 3,100 and Chainage 3,300 would be removed and will result in **direct significant impacts**.

It is proposed to conduct archaeological investigations post-consent and pre-construction in all off-road sections required for construction, including land required for access tracks, Passing Bays, Joint Bays, HDD Compounds and TCCs to inform any mitigation measures required. This will comprise archaeological geophysical survey, archaeological test excavation, palaeo-environmental assessment, and underwater assessment at relevant locations to inform the design of archaeological excavation and further underwater surveys. Mitigation will be carried out under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist under Licence.

Specific mitigation measures for known archaeological, architectural heritage and cultural heritage undertaken post-consent and in advance of construction are listed, together with mitigation for 2 no. sites during construction. Where archaeological finds are discovered during monitoring, and where preservation in-situ is not feasible, excavation under licence is proposed.

It is anticipated that, following implementation of mitigation measures, there will be one Moderate (which is considered '**Significant**' for this assessment) impact on the recorded monument to be removed (AY_47) during construction but no other significant residual impacts.

MCC Comment: An Bord Pleanála are invited to consider the specific recommendations of Meath County Council's Archaeologist. A range of archaeological evidence has been noted, including around Dunboyne which should be considered by ABP in its assessment.

Traffic and Transport

A TTA considers the likely effects of the proposed development, existing traffic conditions and the road network and traffic count surveys have informed the minimisation of impacts. Several roads will be crossed by the proposed development including local, regional and M1, 2 and 3 motorways. There are several bus services in the vicinity of the development/ using the route.

In the absence of mitigation, the increases in traffic because of the proposed development is determined to have a negligible/ minor (not significant) effect on the majority of identified receptors. At one location (M3 Motorway On/Off Slips), the effect would be moderate (**significant**).

Disruption to road users because of laying the proposed underground cable in the existing road network. 4 no. (of 30 no.) temporary traffic management sections, 9.1km in length will have a **negative, moderate (deemed significant) and temporary impact** on traffic and transport due to the requirement for traffic diversions.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan is proposed to manage temporary impacts that construction will have on traffic and movement. As all public roads will be reinstated to their original condition, no potential for significant impacts on traffic and transport is anticipated. Any maintenance work-based traffic is deemed not significant given its brief duration and negligible (not significant) impact.

Following the implementation of mitigation measures, 4 no temporary traffic management sections (1.02, 1.07, 1.09, and 1.12) of 9.1km in length will experience a **moderate (significant) residual impact** during construction due to associated diversion lengths as road closures will be required due to the volume of construction traffic.

Sections along the R156 Regional Road, L1010 Nuttstown Road, and Prieststown Road in Co. Meath will have a moderate impact due to 21 and 22-minute diversions that will be signposted from the affected regional road to alternative roads of similar or better standard.

The impacts will be limited to the construction of the proposed cable trench, so will be temporary (typically 40m to 50m of cable trench is proposed to be constructed in one day, meaning these impacts are predicted to last for between 26 and 227 days, although not consecutively). The remaining construction phase impact will be not significant.

Following the implementation of mitigation measures, it is submitted that there will be no significant residual impacts on traffic and transport because of the operational phase.

MCC Comment: The proposed development is located along a route with high levels of traffic movement, particularly at peak times. The Transportation Department of Meath County Council has provided a detailed report for the consideration of An Bord Pleanála and has advised several conditions which ABP are respectively requested to apply, in the event of a grant of permission. The Road Opening Licence process, which is separate to the planning process will consider the detailed construction process.

Agronomy and Equine

40 land holdings will be directly impacted by the proposed development, 3 of which are farms with equine facilities, with 2 are equine-only landholdings. Most farm enterprises, including the 2 no. equine-only facilities, are of medium sensitivity, with one dairy farm being of high sensitivity.

Potential impacts on farms adjoining these works could last a period of two to three months but issues around dust, noise, disturbance, delays, drainage, tree/ hedgerow removal are not deemed to be significant. Off-road construction works are also not considered to be significant.

Mitigation measures include close liaison with community representatives and landowners, the provision of adequate access to any severed land, application of mitigation set out in the CEMP, application of farm biosecurity measures, maintenance of drainage, etc. The application of mitigation will result in no significant residual impact on agronomy and equine during the construction phase. The permanent easements directly affecting 18.7 ha of land will have a permanent land take with trees and hedgerows removed. This is deemed to be not significant and such land can be used for agricultural purposes, except for joint bays/ access tracks and activities such as ploughing at specific locations.

Permanent disturbance is anticipated during the operational phase including the prevention of construction of buildings close to the cable. Routine maintenance such as access to joint bays annually could cause damage to field surfaces/ disturbance to livestock, etc. but a pre-mitigation impact is determined to be not significant to slight adverse.

EMF will not affect food quality and therefore is not significant. EirGrid intends to compensate for the permanent loss of agricultural land and landowners will be advised in advance of routine maintenance.

The temporary and permanent agricultural land take is 0.02% of the combined agricultural area of Co. Meath (197,366 hectares) and Co. Dublin (33,041 hectares) and deemed not significant. No significant residual impacts have been identified.

Waste

Waste and resource impacts of the construction and operational phases of the proposed development are considered. It is submitted that sustainable waste and resource management principles have been adopted in the design of the proposed development.

It is anticipated that construction waste, including excavation waste will be the main type of waste generated because of the proposed development, though some small quantities of municipal-type waste will occur. Hazardous wastes which are likely to arise include waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, oil / fuel residues and oil contaminated items. This would include coal tar in asphalt / bituminous waste from the excavation of road surfaces that were surfaced up to the late 1970s and is estimated at 5,019 tn to transported to and disposed of at a suitably licensed facility.

96.9% of soils and fill material required removal during construction (255,727 tn) or 3% of the C&D waste baseline for the Eastern and Midlands Waste Region. The potential impact prior to mitigation is assessed as **negative, significant and short-term**.

Construction materials (asphalt, topsoil, subsoil, engineered fill and concrete) constitute <1% of the quantities produced per annum in Ireland, will need to be imported for the construction phase. 150 drums of insulated copper cabling will be required for the cable route. Operational waste associated with maintenance activities and municipal waste from day-to-day management activities are expected to be minimal. The risk from replacement equipment is extremely low so significant environmental effects are not anticipated.

A Construction Resource and Waste Management Plan has been prepared and it is submitted that its implementation will reduce the impact from **negative, significant and short-term** to negative, **not significant** and short-term.

It is submitted that the development has been designed to minimise the quantities of construction materials required, their sustainability, the amount, etc. Following the implementation of mitigation measures, no significant residual impacts have been identified for construction or operational phases.

MCC Comment: An Bord Pleanála in its consideration of the proposed development, is requested to consider the proposed conditions in relation to waste and resource management applied at the end of this report.

Material Assets

This section of the EIAR considers electricity lines, ducts and cabling and associated infrastructure; potable watermains and associated infrastructure; sewer lines and associated infrastructure; gas mains (high and medium pressure); telecommunications lines and associated infrastructure for multiple providers; and infrastructure associated with Dublin Airport including the Aviation Fuel Pipeline.

It is submitted that the improvement of the electricity infrastructure of the region once the proposed development is operational will result in a **positive, significant and long-term impact**.

EirGrid states that the proposed development has been designed to minimise the impact on utility infrastructure but is based on available records and preliminary site investigations. Where interaction will occur, it is stated that it will be protected or diverted, etc. based on minimum safety clearance and design standards. Consultation with major utility providers has taken place and notice given in advance of any necessary disruptions will be given.

No significant negative residual impacts on major infrastructure or utilities are predicted because of the construction or operational phases and once operational, it will have a **positive, significant and long-term** residual impact on the electricity infrastructure in the region.

Landscape and Visual

This incorporates a Landscape Impact Assessment and a Visual Impact Assessment and included a desk-based reviews, field surveys and selection of potential viewpoints, etc. A 500m buffer from the site boundary was used. Specific attributes of the landscape with the application boundary are outlined.

The greatest potential for impact occurs during construction of the infrastructure upgrades at Woodland and Belcamp substations; and there will be very minor indications of subsurface features along the cable route during the operational phase.

Of particular note are the negative, imperceptible and **permanent landscape impact** during the operational phase; negative, slight to imperceptible and **permanent visual impact** during the operational phase in the vicinity of Belcamp substation, at the viewpoints at the local road in Clonsaugh (VP1) and at the R139, Clonsaugh (VP2); and neutral, imperceptible and **permanent visual impact** during the operational phase in the vicinity of Belcamp substation, at the viewpoints at the at the R139, Belcamp (VP3) and at the Craobh Chiaráin GAA pitches.

There will be **permanent and temporary hedgerow and mature tree loss. 1,174 trees will be felled (12% of the total trees)** within the study area as identified in an Arboricultural Assessment. Road surface and agricultural grassland will be reinstated along the cable route.

No Tree Preservation Order or National Biodiversity Data Centre heritage trees will be removed. It is submitted that hedgerows removed for the temporary works areas will be replanted with a new species-rich hedgerow which is likely to be more ecologically diverse than what was removed. Between 705 and 1,528 new trees will be planted. Compensatory measures are proposed for hedgerows, treelines and individual trees, although there will be an inevitable loss of biodiversity until these habitats have established (approximately 5 to 10 years for hedgerows and 20 to 30 years for treelines and individual trees). It is stated that the permanent loss of hedgerow after mitigation is 0.67 km which will be compensated by 0.87km (Chapter 10).

No significant landscape or visual impacts are predicted as a result in any significant landscape or visual impacts during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

MCC Comment: An Bord Pleanála, in its consideration of the proposed development, is requested to consider the comments presented under 'Biodiversity' above.

Risk of Major Accidents and/ or Disasters

This section of the EIAR considers and identifies major accidents that the development may be vulnerable to and the likely impacts and consequences of such incidents. Medium risk levels were applied to potential gas explosion due to striking underground gas mains during excavation, pollution to watercourses/ groundwater and risk of spread of non-native invasive species. A series of mitigation measures are set out in the CEMP and it is submitted that no significant risks were identified as being likely to occur during the operational phase.

Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions

The applicant has considered local Planning Applications and major infrastructure projects from TII, NTA, UÉ, DAA, etc. to establish a zone of influence, the largest of which was 1km. A long list of potential impacts from development was shortlisted considering location, programmes of construction/ operation and available environmental assessments. 29 no. were assessed for potential cumulative effects. In general, no other mitigation was proposed.

However, additional mitigation was proposed for the CP0996 Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade SID application; as these developments could occur in tandem and there is a spatial overlap at the Woodland corridor from the substation to the R-156 and it is stated that this will be included in the contract.

Several negative and significant residual cumulative impacts have been identified for biodiversity, agronomy and equine due to the combined removal of calcareous and natural grassland, and the permanent acquisition of agricultural land between the proposed development and the CP1213 Belcamp 220kV Extension Project (biodiversity and agronomy impact) and the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (agronomy impact).

In the case of the impact to grassland, this is deemed **negative, significant and medium-term** as the habitat removed will take longer periods to grow/ re-establish. In the case of agronomy, the loss of agricultural land will be a permanent loss which cannot be mitigated.

There is also a **negative, significant and permanent residual cumulative impact** on a single Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage receptor (a Designed

Landscape) due to the presence of two Glenveagh Homes developments and one Montague Ventures Limited development, and permanent access tracks and Joint Bays within this Demesne.

There will be a **positive, significant and long-term impact** on the regional electricity network once the proposed development and the CP0466 North South Interconnector EirGrid CP0966 Kildare Meath Upgrade Mayne Stability Limited development, ESB Engineering & Major Projects development (Macetown/ Corduff underground cable), CP1213 EirGrid development, the ESB development at Darndale and the CP1194 EirGrid Station redevelopment are operational.

Interactions between the environmental receptors have also been identified.

MCC Comment: In the event of a grant of permission, An Bord Pleanála are requested to condition the implement the mitigation (and monitoring) measures set out at Chapter 21 of the EIAR.

7.2.4 Design and Layout

38km of underground cable with 20.5km in Co. Meath. Part of the route in Co. Meath will be through private land from the Woodland substation and the R-156 with the majority of the remainder in Co. Meath in public roads.

Land take within the application site comprises an area of 142ha (entire site). The majority of this comprises the underground cable route. The existing Woodland substation has a floor area of 398m² and the proposal seeks to extend existing substation infrastructure on greenfield lands within Woodland substation.

It is generally considered, subject to the conditions proposed by Meath Co. Council, that the proposed cable route design and reinstatement of roads infrastructure will be acceptable. A large area of hedgerow/ trees will be removed to facilitate the development, and this will impact on the landscape within the area. It is recommended, in the event of a grant of permission, that specific details in relation to the proposed mitigation is agreed in writing with the Planning Authority in relation to the compensatory planting. It is considered that the proposed extension to the Woodland substation infrastructure within the site is acceptable.

Given the nature of the development, fire safety details may need to be considered as part of the proposed development and the applicant is advised to consult with the Fire Office of Meath County Council.

7.2.5 Traffic & Transportation, etc.

A Temporary Traffic Management Plan was prepared for the proposed development. Further details are provided in the EIAR above.

MCC Comments: An Bord Pleanála are invited to consider the comments and recommended conditions of the Transportation Departments of Meath County Council in this regard.

EirGrid refer to an accepted standard for underground cable development as 'The Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (DTTS, 2017) or the application of a condition to

ensure the appropriate reinstatement of the public road, etc. to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

If external public lighting is required for the proposed development, ABP are requested to include a condition which ensures that the applicant demonstrates that any obtrusive light is mitigated.

7.2.6 Water Services/ Other Utilities

No water/ wastewater services are required, though there are water supplies and wastewater management system at existing substation sites.

MCC Comment: An Bord Pleanála may wish to consider the observations of Uisce Éireann in relation to water services utilities. Consideration must be given to the existing services within roads infrastructure which must not be adversely affected by the proposed development.

It is recommended that the applicant is required to adhere to IFI (2016) *Guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters*; and all works will be supervised by an Environmental Clerk of Works and the Project Hydrologist.

8.0 Conclusion & Recommendation

8.1 Principle of Development

The Planning Authority considers the nature of the proposed development is supported in National, Regional and Local Planning Policy. Such development must be appropriate from an environmental, technical and visual perspective, etc.

8.2 Design & Amenity

At Woodland substation, the surge arrestors (12.6m high) and 2 no. gantries at 25m high with one 3m high lightning rod on top of each gantry would be the most visible aspect of the development once construction is completed. It is considered that the proposed development within the confines of the existing Woodland substation in Co. Meath and roads infrastructure will have minimal impact following the completion of construction works.

A large amount of hedgerow and trees will be required to be removed and this will affect the local landscape and will impact on ecological corridors. The cumulative impact of its removal must be considered by An Bord Pleanála.

8.3 Access/ Traffic and Movement

The route of the proposed development is heavily trafficked, particularly at peak times. Having regard to comments from the Transportation Department of Meath County Council, including conditions recommended in the event of approval of the proposed development, it is considered that the construction works will cause disruption to traffic movement, however following completion of the proposed development, it will not have a negative impact on access, traffic and movement in the vicinity of the proposed development.

8.4 Cultural Heritage & Landscape

It is considered that the applicant has considered a range of projects in its cumulative assessments. Although the proposal is to underground the proposed 37.5km 400kV cable, the works involved will alter the existing local landscape with the removal/ damage to hedgerow and trees. The works at Woodland Substation are considered acceptable in a local landscape context and will not have a significant visual impact.

8.5 Environmental Receptors & Environmental Assessment

An AA Screening, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Flood Risk Assessment were submitted by the applicant and An Bord Pleanála are the competent authority for the purposes of EIA and AA.

8.6 Development Contributions

In accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022 and the *Meath County Council Development Contribution Scheme (DCS) 2024-2029*¹², the proposed development involves works at the existing Woodland Substation in Co. Meath and 20.5km of 400kV electrical cable and as such, in the event of permission for approval being granted by An Bord Pleanála, development contributions are applicable.

An Bord Pleanála are requested to include a condition of planning which reflects the above. It is also requested to include a condition for a cash deposit/ bank bond or other such security with the Planning Authority to secure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site on cessation of the project.

The following information is extracted from the Meath County Council DCS.

Non-Residential Development

| Non-Residential Development | | Contribution |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Telecommunications Mast ⁷ (except broadband) | Per mast | €5,000 |
| Electricity Pylons | | |
| 220kv | Per pylon | €5,000 |
| 400kv | Per pylon | €10,000 |
| Renewable Energy Initiatives (export to the Grid) ⁸ | Per mega watt | €1,000 / 0.1 mw |
| Other ⁹ | Per hectare | €15,000 |

⁹ Development not coming within any of the foregoing categories e.g. energy storage facilities.

It is noted that the applicant, at Section 6.7.5 of the Planning Report submitted with the documentation, refers to EirGrid's Community Benefit Fund for the project and refers to 1/3 of the fund which will fund community biodiversity projects. An Bord Pleanála may wish to include a condition to this effect.

¹² https://www.meath.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2023-12/Meath%20County%20Council%20Development%20Contribution%20Scheme%202024%20-%202029_0.pdf

8.7 Conclusion and Recommendation

Accordingly, based on the examination of the documents accompanying this application, carried out by the Executive of Meath County Council, in the context of National, Regional and Local planning policy, reports and comments from internal departments of Meath County Council, a review of the planning application, its plans, particulars and supporting reports, this report respectfully recommends without prejudice that **permission is granted** by the Board.

8.7.1 Schedule of Conditions

The comments from the various internal sections/ departments have sought specific planning conditions, in the event of a grant of permission, and An Bord Pleanála is respectfully requested to attach the conditions listed below. While the conditions relate exclusively to the element of the development proposed in Co. Meath, there is inevitably some overlap with the part of the site in Co. Kildare.

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application to An Bord Pleanála on the XX/XX/2024, except as may otherwise be required to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and proper planning and sustainable development.

2. The Applicant shall appoint a Community Liaison Officer for all stages of the development and shall be the first point of contact for residents seeking information, making a complaint, etc. and shall be responsible for discharging information in relation to the project to residents/landowners.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and orderly development of the site

3 (a) The identification of Community Benefit Projects and works shall be decided upon by a community liaison committee; the composition of the committee shall be based upon equal representation of personnel from the Planning Authorities, the developer, local residents and elected members of Meath and Fingal County Councils; any variation in the composition of the committee shall be subject to the prior agreement of the Planning Authorities.

(b) The developer shall pay a sum of money to the Planning Authority, either annually or in such manner as may be agreed, towards the cost of the provision of environmental improvement and recreational or community amenities in the locality. The identification of such projects shall be decided by the relevant Planning Authority having consulted with the community liaison committee as provided for under (a) above. The amount of the contribution and the arrangements for payment shall be agreed between the developer and the planning authorities or, in default of such agreement shall be referred to the Board for determination. The amount shall be index linked in the case of phased payment. The developer shall consult with the planning authorities in this regard prior to the commencement of the development.

Reason: It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the cost of environmental, recreational or community amenities which would constitute a substantial gain to the local community.

4. The mitigation measures and monitoring identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Natura Impact Statement, Construction Environment Management Plan and other particulars submitted with the planning application, shall be implemented in full by the developer, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and the protection of the environment during construction and operational phases of development.

5. The developer shall appoint persons with appropriate ecological, hydrological and construction expertise such as Environmental Manager/ Ecological Clerk of Works and Hydrologist to ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the above documents (Condition no. 3) are implemented in full during the pre-construction, construction stage and post construction phases to advise on, oversee and monitor mitigation measures. Monitoring shall be carried out for a minimum of 2 years post construction.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and the protection of the environment during construction and operational phases of development.

6. Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall submit for written agreement with Meath and Fingal Planning Authorities, the following:

- (a) Precise details of proposed compensatory planting locations;
- (b) Specific details of planting species which shall be native to the area;
- (c) Timescale for planting; and
- (d) Programme for replacement planting in the event of failure; or
- (e) Option for agreeing an alternative measure which benefits an action in Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Meath and Fingal Local Authorities, subject to their agreement (e.g. wooded area, etc.).

Reason: In the interest of clarity and the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

7. Prior to the commencement of development, Public Lighting designs shall demonstrate that any proposed obtrusive light is mitigated and appropriate for the external lighting of the development, where required. Details shall be agreed in writing with Meath County Council.

Reason: In the interest of road safety and traffic management.

8. Trees and hedgerows shall not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st) in accordance with the Wildlife Act (as amended). Replacement hedgerows shall be of native species.

Reason: In the interest of avian ecology and visual amenity.

9. Specific details of species which shall be native to the area; planting locations; timescale for planting and a programme for replacement planting in the event of failure shall be submitted for the written agreement of Meath and Fingal Planning Authorities. All landscaping shall take place in the 1st planting season upon commencement of development. The landscaping and screening shall be maintained at regular intervals. Any trees or shrubs planted in accordance with this condition which is removed, die, become seriously damaged or diseased within five years of planting shall be replaced by trees or shrubs of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to promote biodiversity.

10. The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site.

(a) Areas proposed for advance archaeological survey shall be reviewed by an archaeogeophysicist to confirm their suitability and to confirm the most suitable prospection methodology. Archaeological geophysics performs best in blocks based on a 25m x 25m grid. There is no specific requirement that this grid needs to be wholly within the LMA for construction and surveys may extend outside the LMA if necessary. Site by site review would benefit a targeted approach.

(b) A suitably qualified archaeologist shall be engaged to review the project and draw up an Archaeological Strategy Document to cover the 'known or presumed' heritage locations; as well as to provide additional details regarding the approach to the 'rest of the site' greenfield areas. This document should review at a minimum the available pre-Ordnance Survey mapping, walkover photographs / visuals, proposed areas, existing services, location suitability, access, sensitivity and general Health and Safety requirements. It should specify that the testing will be to a suitable area percentage (usually 10-12%) and that if something is found, then further archaeological work will normally be required. Typically, intensive test trenching that reveals no archaeological results and / or areas where any discovered archaeological sites have been preserved by record, means that those areas do not require monitoring during construction. However, if significant areas are not test trenched in advance, then monitoring of construction works in those areas may be required.

The Document should also outline the works programme and include a proposal for producing a suitably 'popular format' Dissemination / Publication product (digital or hard copy) to promote the heritage elements of this strategic EirGrid Project.

Reason: To deliver the proposed mitigation and ensure the continued preservation in situ or by record of all archaeological and historical material, features or objects, to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site, it is considered reasonable that the developer should facilitate the preservation and protection or the preservation by record of any archaeological features or materials which may exist within it.

11. The undertaker shall submit for agreement, prior to commencement, the detailed design of the proposed development. This includes, but is not limited to, ground investigations,

watercourse/bridges/culvert crossings, M3 crossing, ducting/joint box locations, cover levels and cable route.

Reason: In the interest of proper planning.

12. The undertaker shall submit for agreement, prior to commencement, a Construction Stage Traffic Management Plan. This plan shall focus on mitigating the impact of lane / road closures during the construction as well as the development of traffic diversion strategies. The plan shall also provide details of the road network to be used by construction traffic, including over-sized loads, and detailed arrangements for the protection of bridges, culverts or other structures to be traversed, as may be required. The delivery of abnormal loads for the construction shall be managed in accordance with the approved Traffic Management Plan. The plan should also contain details of how the undertaker intends to engage with and notify the local community in advance of potential lane / road closures.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

13. The undertaker shall monitor traffic queuing time/delays at each works location and record traffic flows on the local road network at locations to be agreed with the planning authority. Such monitoring information shall be provided in a report to the planning authority on a weekly basis.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

14. A pre-condition survey shall be carried out on all public roads and bridges that will be used in connection with the development to record their condition in advance of construction commencing. A post-construction survey will also be carried out after the works are completed. The specification, timing and extent of the surveys will be agreed with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The surveys shall include the roads within which the cable is to be installed as well as roads used, directly and indirectly, as diversion routes. The undertaker shall complete any remedial works, or cover the costs of same, resulting from the proposed development.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

15. The undertaker shall submit for agreement a programme which provides full details of the proposed construction and cabling sequence in relation road closures and resulting traffic management prior to the start of construction. The programme shall be provided using Microsoft Project or an equivalent alternative. The project shall be adequately resourced to minimize the road closure durations.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

16. The spacing of the cables / ducts shall comply with the requirements in the relevant standard drawings of the Purple Book (Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads) and with the minimum dimensions stated within 110 kV, 220 kV and 400 kV Underground Cable Functional Specification (CDS-GFS-00-001-R1). These

documents provide essential details regarding transverse openings, temporary & permanent reinstatement, and minimum vertical and horizontal spacing requirements.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and road user safety.

17. The undertaker shall agree with Meath County Council to have representatives from Meath County Council to supervise works along the route network during the construction phase of the scheme. All costs associated with the provision of representatives to be borne by the undertaker.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

18. The undertaker shall investigate/implement an alternative to the construction of permanent reinforced concrete joint boxes as a means of connecting cable lengths due to the significant impact on the public road network and future development potential. It is noted that on other HV projects, including the East West Interconnector, that permanent concrete joint boxes were not used. Proposals to be agreed with Meath Co Council prior to commencement of works.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

19. The undertaker shall, if the implementation of joint boxes is unavoidable, investigate removable sidewalls to the proposed joint boxes. This would increase the overall cover provided and reduce the impact in providing services for future development.

Reason: To allow for economical future development.

20. The undertaker should ensure that, where feasible, joint boxes be located outside of the carriageway/verges and, if possible, they should be designed to be temporary, allowing for relocation if necessary.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

21. A standard design detail and construction methodology for the installation of joint bays in the road reservation using trench boxes, or similar, shall be agreed with the road authority prior to the commencement of development. On completion of the cable jointing at each joint location, the road verge and/or pavement shall be reinstated to the satisfaction of the road authority.

Reason: To safeguard the significant investment in the road network.

22. The undertaker shall ensure that thermal sand within the joint boxes is compacted to the required standard of the road. The final surface (subgrade or subbase) shall be subject to CBR testing or any other compaction tests which shall be at the discretion of the MCC representative on site.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

23. Meath County Council reserves the right to adjust joint box and cable locations in order to avoid conflicts with potential future developments, prior to construction. The relocation shall include design factors such longitudinal repositioning, depth and alignment.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

24. The undertaker shall not unreasonably prevent or restrict the future upgrade of any public road along the proposed route of the HV cable. The upgrade of a road includes, but is not limited to, resurfacing and restoration works, improvements to the vertical and horizontal alignment, widening, junction improvements including signalisation, drainage improvements, bridge and culvert upgrades, provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities or the provision of safety measures including public lighting and vehicle containment barriers. Where road upgrade works are required:

- a. The Undertaker shall provide a representative to attend meetings, assist with the design and supervise the construction works on or adjacent to the cable, with 2 weeks' notice and free of charge.
- b. The construction of the HV cable should not prevent or restrict the Road Authority, in exercising its statutory duties, from completing upgrade works to the public roads. The Undertaker shall divert the cable, if required, to facilitate the road upgrade works. All costs associated with diverting the HV cable and/or its ancillary equipment shall be borne by the undertaker, unless otherwise agreed.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and to safeguard the significant investment in the road network.

25. The undertaker shall not unreasonably prevent any services associated with the development of zoned lands from crossing the HV cable. The undertaker shall provide a representative to attend meetings, assist with the design and supervise construction of service crossings for any future works on or adjacent to affected roads, with 2 weeks' notice, free of charge.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

26. Service chambers, manholes, and similar infrastructure should not be placed within the carriageway, especially along the wheel lines. This shall also apply to cycle lanes. Communication infrastructure, including chambers, ducting and cables shall be used for the operation of the proposed HV cable only.

Reason: In the interest of safety.

27. The undertaker shall provide full details of decommissioning proposals once the project has reached the end of its design life. MCC reserve the right to remove segments of the proposed scheme on a case-by-case basis once decommissioned.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network. Horizontal Drilling.

28. Where the minimum standard “vertical cover” requirements cannot be achieved e.g. bridge crossings, then an alternate route shall be taken, or Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shall be investigated as an option. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or other appropriate alternatives shall be utilised for all crossings with appropriate plans and details to be agreed with the relevant road authority in advance of any construction. Details of the methods to be employed shall be agreed in writing with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and TII.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to protect the integrity and carrying capacity of the public road network.

29. The undertaker has proposed implementation of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or other trenchless techniques along the three Motorways, the M1, M2 and M3 and the M3 parkway rail line to minimise impacts and to ensure no disruption to operational services. Appropriate plans and details of the methodology to be employed shall be agreed in writing with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and TII in advance of any construction.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and road user safety.

30. The public road shall be maintained clean and free of any dirt or debris created as a result of the proposed development.

Reason: In the interest of traffic safety and proper planning and sustainable development.

31. (a) Prior to commencement the applicant should liaise with Meath County Council Environment (Flooding and Surface Water) Department to agree details of any ducting proposed within public roads including the location of such proposed ducting relative to existing surface water infrastructure. The subsequent approval of the authority must be secured in writing before the construction of any such ducting may proceed.
- (b) The applicant shall ensure that excavated material/spoil heaps are not stored within any identified Flood Zones A & B.
- (c) The launch and reception pits for all trenchless crossings shall be located outside the identified Flood Zones A & B and details of same shall be submitted to the written agreement of the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the proposed development, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.
- (d) The applicant shall submit details of all watercourse crossings (pipeline depths, separation distance etc.) for the written agreement of the Planning Authority before the commencement of development on the site.
- (e) The cable trenching detail shall be submitted to the written agreement of the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the proposed development and shall include clay plugs so that the proposed trench does not act as a natural channel for

groundwater or increase localised flooding elsewhere, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

- (f) Any flood risk/ water quality mitigation measures to be undertaken at construction stage as outlined in SSFRA and/ or in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and shall be implemented during the construction stage.
- (g) The applicant shall ensure that all cable jointing pits are located outside flood zones A & B, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.
- (h) The Applicant shall carry out all works in accordance with recommendations in the Inland Fisheries Ireland *Guidance Document on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters*, 2016. Compliance with this condition shall be to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and the protection of water quality.

32. The Applicant shall update accordingly and communicate to all site personnel the Construction Environmental Monitoring Plan (CEMP). The CEMP shall include but not be limited to operational controls for dust, noise and vibration, waste management (to include contaminated materials encountered), protection of soils and groundwaters and surface waters (to include a proposal for a surface water monitoring programme to be undertaken during the construction phase), protection of flora and fauna, site housekeeping, emergency response planning, site environmental policy, environmental regulatory requirements and project roles and responsibilities. The CEMP shall also address extreme of weather (drought, wind, precipitation, temperature extremes) and the possible impacts on receptors and mitigation of same. The CEMP shall be treated as a live document.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

33. The Applicant shall prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP) for the proposed development. The WMP shall include but not be limited to project description, legislation requirements, demolition waste, construction phase waste, categories of construction waste, anticipated hazardous waste, non-construction waste, segregation of waste streams, estimated waste generated, waste hierarchy and adherence to same, roles and responsibilities and communication of WMP, details of recovery and disposal sites, details of waste hauliers, record keeping and documentation, waste audit procedures. The WMP shall be prepared in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (2006) and "Guidelines for the Management of Waste from National Road Construction Road Projects" (Rev. 2014), the WMP shall also take cognisance of the current Regional Waste Management Plan in particular to the upper tiers of the Waste Hierarchy. All waste generated on site shall be recovered/ disposed of at an authorised facility and transported by an authorised collector. The WMP shall be treated as a live document and communicated to all relevant personnel.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

34. Dust emissions at the site boundaries shall not exceed 350mg/m²/day. All mitigation measures in respect of dust as referenced in an updated CEMP shall be fully implemented.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

35. All refuelling shall take place in a designated refuelling area at least 30m from watercourses, details of same to be included in the updated Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

36. All hydrocarbons, chemicals, oils, etc. shall be stored in a dedicated bunded area at least 30m from watercourses and capable of storing 110% of the container/tank capacity.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

37. The applicant shall ensure adequate supply of spill kits and hydrocarbon absorbent pads are stocked on site.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

38. Burning of waste, including green waste, is prohibited on site.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

39. The Applicant shall provide to the Local Authority, on completion of the works, a comprehensive report detailing the management of all waste streams generated during the construction and commissioning stages of the project. This shall include but not be limited to type of waste streams, amount of each waste stream generated, destination of waste streams (including final destination if applicable), percentage of waste re-used, recycled, recovered and disposed, and prevention and minimisation initiatives undertaken.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

40. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer or any agent acting on its behalf shall prepare a Construction and Demolition Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP) as set out in the Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for C&D Projects (2021) including demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols. The RWMP shall include specific proposals as to how the RWMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness; these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record. The RWMP must be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement prior to the commencement of development. All records (including for waste and all

resources) pursuant to the agreed RWMP shall be made available for inspection at the site office at all times.

Reason: In the interest of proper planning and sustainable development.

41. The construction works shall be carried out in accordance with the noise guidance set out by BS 5228-1:2009 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites and the NRA Guidelines for the treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Roads Schemes.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity.

42. During the construction phase noise levels at noise sensitive locations shall not exceed 70dB(A) between 0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1400 hours Saturday and 45dB(A) at any other time. Noise exceedance activities must be agreed in writing with Meath County Council prior to the activity taking place.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

43. The Applicant shall, during the construction stage, maintain a Complaints Register to record any complaints regarding but not limited to noise, odour, dust, traffic or any other environmental nuisance. The Complaint Register shall include details of the complaint and measures taken to address the complaint and prevent repetition of the complaint.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

44. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority, all excavated material stored onsite shall be setback a minimum of 5 metres back from the drainage ditches/watercourses onsite. A silt fence shall also be installed at a minimum of 3 metres from the drainage ditches/watercourses onsite and shall be maintained until vegetation has been re-established.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

45. The Applicant, contractor and sub-contractors shall endeavour to utilise low energy and low emissions vehicles and plant where possible.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection.

46. The site shall be maintained in a neat and tidy condition during the operational phase, with stockpiling of material not permitted on site, unless approved in writing with the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interest of environmental protection and orderly development.

47. Any significant works to bridges over rivers or streams shall be carried out in accordance with the National Roads Authority guidelines for the treatment of otters.

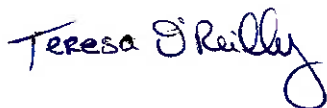
Reason: To comply with requirements for the protection of breeding otters.

48. The developer shall pay a contribution to the Planning Authority towards expenditure that was and/or that is proposed to be incurred by the Planning Authority in the provision and extension of social infrastructure (open spaces, recreational and community facilities, amenities and landscaping works) by the Council benefiting development in the area of the Authority, as provided for in the Contribution Scheme of Meath County Council adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 48 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2022. Payment of the contribution shall be made prior to commencement of development unless the phasing of payments and the giving of security to ensure payment in full is agreed in writing with the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. The amount to be agreed, shall apply until 31st December 2024 and shall be subject to review on that date and to annual review thereafter unless previously paid. The contribution rates shall be updated effective from January 1st each year during the lifetime of the Development Contribution Scheme in accordance with the Wholesale Price Indices - Building and Construction (Capital Goods) published by the Central Statistics Office.

Reason: The provision of such social infrastructure in the area by the Council will facilitate the proposed development. It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the cost of providing these services.

49. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the Planning Authority a cash deposit, to secure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site on cessation of the project coupled with an agreement empowering the Planning Authority to apply such security or part thereof to such reinstatement. The form and amount of the security shall be as agreed between the Planning Authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination. If the amount of security required by this condition has not been lodged with the planning authority within 12 months of the date of this decision, the amount required shall be adjusted in accordance with an increase in the House Building Cost Index, which occurs between the date of this decision and the date on which the condition is satisfied.

Reason: To ensure the site is restored to a satisfactory condition.



Teresa O'Reilly,
Executive Planner.

W Bagnall

Wendy Bagnall,
Senior Executive Planner

P. Maguire

Padraig Maguire
Senior Planner

Advice Notes

- (i) It should be clearly understood that a grant of permission does not relieve the applicant/developer of the responsibility of complying with any requirements under other statutory codes affecting the development.
- (ii) This permission does not confer title. It is the responsibility of the applicant/developer to ensure that they control all the lands necessary to carry out the proposed development.
- (iii) This permission does not alter or extinguish or otherwise affect any existing or valid right of way crossing, impinging or otherwise pertaining to these lands.
- (iv) The Applicant/Developer shall make all necessary arrangements to apply for and obtain a Road Opening License(s) from Meath County Council in respect of all openings in public areas and shall pay Road Opening License fees and Road Restoration costs. The Applicant/Developer shall abide by all of the conditions as set out in said license(s).
- (v) The applicant/developer is responsible for the full cost of repair in respect of any damage caused to any adjoining public roadway arising from the construction work and should make good any such damage forthwith to the satisfaction of Meath County Council.
- (vi) All waste generated during construction, including surplus excavation material to be taken off-site, shall be only recovered or disposed of at an authorised site which has a current Waste Licence or Waste Permit in accordance with the Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2008. This shall not apply to the reuse of excavated uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material within the applicant's site boundary.

Appendix 1: Referral Reports

Transportation (General) Department

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

Fón: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

R-phost: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Uimhir Chláraithe: 00172770



Meath County Council

Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan,
Co. Meath, C15 Y291

Tel: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

Our Ref: TRA 15 10 04

Transportation Department

East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade Project

Report on Planning Application for Strategic Infrastructure Development

Date: 16th May 2024

To: Planning Department

Planning Ref: SID ABP-319422

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Applicant Name: | EirGrid |
| Adjoining public road No.: | R-156, R-157, L-5026. |
| Description: | The proposed development comprises approximately 37.5 kilometres of new 400kV underground cable between the existing Woodland Substation, Batterstown, County Meath and the existing Belcamp Substation, Clonshaugh, Fingal, County Dublin. The proposed development includes works at both substations to facilitate the connection of the underground cable to the electrical grid. |

Introduction

EirGrid plc (EirGrid) have submitted several documents to support an application for statutory approval under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to An Bord Pleanála (ABP), in respect of the planned East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade project consisting of approximately 37.5 kilometres (km) of new 400 kilovolt (kV) underground cable circuit between the existing Woodland Substation in the townland of Woodland in County Meath, and the existing Belcamp Substation in the townlands of Clonshaugh and Belcamp in Fingal, County Dublin (hereby referred to as the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development also involves works in the substations to facilitate the connection of the underground cable circuit to the electrical grid. Approximately 20.5km of the proposed underground cable route will be located in County Meath and approximately 17km of the proposed underground cable route will be located in Fingal, County Dublin. Approximately 70% of the proposed underground cable route will be located within public roads and approximately 30% will be located in private lands, to avoid location specific constraints. The extent of the proposed development is illustrated in the Figure 1 below.

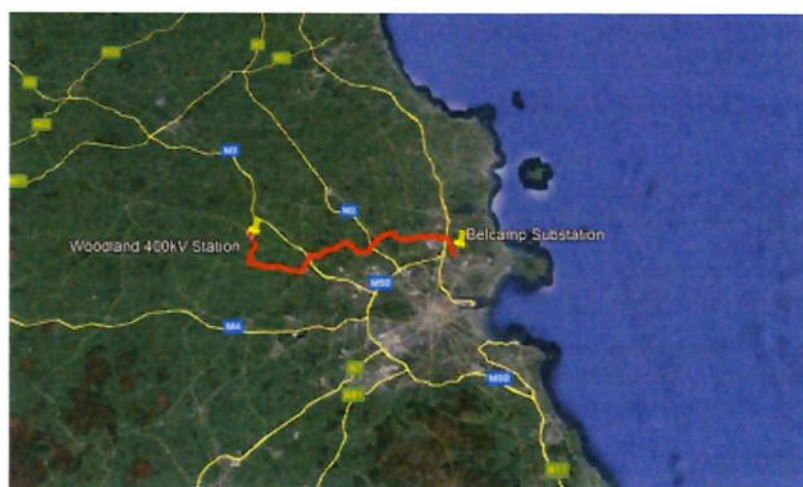


Figure 1 - Extents of the Proposed Development

Development Description

The proposed development consists of the following principal elements:

- **Installation of an underground cable circuit, approximately 37.5km in length, connecting Woodland Substation (400kV) in the townland of Woodland in County Meath, and Belcamp Substation (220kV) in the townlands of Clonshagh and Belcamp in Fingal. The development of the underground cable circuit will include the following:**
 - o Construction of a trench of approximately 1.5m in width and approximately 1.3m in depth in the public road (approximately 26km) and approximately 1.8m in depth in private lands (approximately 11.5km) in which the underground cable circuit is laid in flat formation, with associated above ground route marker posts. Route marker posts will be located at field boundaries where the proposed underground cable circuit is laid in private land, at regular intervals in-road verges where the proposed underground cable circuit is in-road, in-road verges where the proposed underground cable circuit crosses any roads, and at Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) crossing locations;
 - o Construction of 49 Joint Bays (on average every 750m), primarily in the public roads, each approximately 10m in length, 2.5m in width and 2.5m in depth, with adjacent communication chambers and link boxes, along the full alignment of the underground cable circuit. Where the Joint Bays are located off-road, permanent hardstanding areas will be created around the Joint Bays
 - o The laying of communication links and fibre optic cables between both substations, running in the same trench as the underground cable circuit;
 - o The provision of seven Temporary Construction Compounds located along the route and adjacent to substations – sizes for each of the seven Temporary Construction Compounds ranging from approximately 0.8ha to 1.6ha;
 - o The provision of a Temporary HDD Compound at both the reception and launch locations for three HDD motorway crossings, (i.e., six temporary HDD Compounds in total), and associated laydown area for each HDD crossing (i.e., three laydown areas in total) - sizes for each of the six HDD Compounds (plus laydown area where applicable) ranging from approximately 0.15ha to 0.45ha;

- o The provision of temporary Passing Bays during construction at certain Joint Bay locations, each approximately 95m in length and 5.5m in width;
- o The laying of unbound temporary access tracks, 5m wide in private lands (approximately 12km in total length);
- o The laying of 12 unbound, permanent access tracks, 4m wide in private land (approximately 4km in total length);
- o All associated water, rail, road, and utility underground crossings using either trenchless drilling or open cut techniques as appropriate for the particular crossing; and
- o All associated and ancillary above and below-ground site development works, including works comprising or relating to permanent and temporary construction and reinstatement, roadworks, utility diversions and site and vegetation clearance.

Upgrades to the existing 400kV Woodland Substation in the townland of Woodland in County Meath and to the existing 220kV Belcamp Substation in the townlands of Clonshagh and Belcamp in Fingal are also included in the application.

Traffic Impact Assessment

Road Closures and Durations

The proposed cable route has been split into 30 Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) sections. For 18 of these TTM Sections, which comprise a length of approximately 24.4km (kilometres), the proposed cable route will run in-road. The remaining 12 TTM Sections, comprising approximately 13.2km of the proposed cable route, will be off-road and will run predominantly through agricultural land. There will be 19 sections of road that will be affected by TTM, most of which are regional roads. A summary of lane and road closures along with approximate durations for the proposed TTM sections have been detailed in Table 14.1 of Chapter 14 Traffic and Transport of the submitted EIAR report. An extract of the affected TTM sections is illustrated in the Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 - Summary of Lane and Road Closures as per Table 14.1 of the Chapter 14 Traffic and Transport.

Table 14.1 Summary of Lane and Road Closures due to Proposed TTM

| TTM Sections | Length (m) | Road | Joint Bay | Position | Road Width (m) | Phase 1 (Cable Bay and Passing Bay Installation) and Phase 2 (Installation and Laying of Cable) | | Phase 2 (Excavation and Cable Duct Installation) | | Disruption Route Length (km) |
|--------------|------------|--|-----------|----------|----------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Traffic Measures | Approximate Duration: Phase 1 / Phase 2 (days) | Traffic Measures | Approximate Duration (days) | |
| 1.00 | 1.2 | R156 Regional Road (west of R157 Regional Road) | JB6 | in-road | 6.5 | Passing Bay - two lane closure | 23 / 47 | Full road closure | 156 | 24.1 |
| | | | | in-merge | 6.5 | Single lane closure | 10 / 45 | | | |
| | | | | in-merge | 7.0 | in-merge | 12 / 47 | | | |
| | | | | in-merge | 6.7 | Single lane closure | 27 / 46 | | | |
| | | | | in-road | 6.5 | Full Road closure | 5 / 51 | | | |
| | | | | in-road | 7.0 | Passing Bay - two lane closure | 7 / 42 | | | |
| | | | | in-road | 6.1 | Full Road Closure | 7 / 42 | | | |
| | | | | in-merge | 6.1 | Single lane closure | 2 / 48 | | | |
| | | | | in-merge | 6.5 | Single lane closure | 1 / 46 | | | |
| | | | | in-merge | 6.0 | in-merge | 5 / 47 | | | |
| 1.01 | 0.5 | R157 Regional Road (south-west of M3 Motorway Junction 5 (J5)) | JB15 | in-merge | 15.0 | Hard shoulder closure | 1 / 48 | Hard shoulder closure | 44 | 7.4 |
| 1.02 | 0.3 | R147 Regional Road (north-west of M3 Motorway (J5)) | JB2 | in-merge | 14.5 | in-merge | 7 / 4 | Two-lane closure | 8 | 0.16 |
| 1.03 | 1.4 | L3026 Race road of R147 Regional Road | JB18 | in-road | 7.0 | Two lane closure | 7 / 48 | Full road closure | 54 | 1.4 |
| 1.04 | 2.7 | L1010 Nutstown Road (west of Knocknaglog) | JB23 | in-road | 5.0 | Full road closure | 4 / 48 | Full road closure | 19 | 27.9 |
| 1.05 | 0.4 | L1010 Nutstown Road (west of Nutstown Crossroads) | JB22 | in-road | 5.3 | Full road closure | 5 / 30 | Full road closure | 11 | 71.3 |
| 1.10 | 1.4 | L1010 Nutstown Road (west of Belgrove Court) | JB23 | in-road | 5.3 | Full road closure | 7 / 48 | Full road closure | 42 | 28.2 |
| 1.12 | 3.9 | R-outdown Road west of K23-de Road | JB24 | in-road | 5.5 | Passing Bay - two lane closure | 15 / 48 | Full road closure | 26 | 28.7 |

| TTM Section | Length (m) | Road | Joint Bay | Position | Road Width (m) | Phase 1 (Joint Bay and Passing Bay Installation) and Phase 2 (Excavation and Laying of Cables) Traffic Measure | Approximate Duration – Phase 1 / Phase 2 (days) | Phase 2 (Excavation and Cable Duct Installation) Traffic Measure | Approximate Duration (days) | Diversion Route Length (km) |
|-------------|------------|--|-----------|----------|----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.14 | 1.1 | Albion Road (south of Pleasant Road) | J825 | In-road | 5.3 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 46 | | | |
| 1.14 | 1.1 | Albion Road (south of Pleasant Road) | J826 | In-verge | 5.8 | Single lane closure | 16 / 46 | Full road closure | 34 | 13.8 |
| 1.18 | 0.7 | Albion Road (north of Kilmuck Lane) | J827 | In-road | 5.7 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 17 / 56 | Full road closure | 20 | 14.2 |
| 1.18 | 0.7 | R121 Regional Road (north-east of Kilmuck Lane) | J828 | In-verge | 5.8 | n/a | n/a | Full road closure | 20 | 6.5 |
| 1.20 | 0.9 | R121 Regional Road (west of R125 Regional Road) | J812 | In-road | 6.5 | Full road closure | 7 / 47 | Full road closure | 36 | 6.8 |
| 1.21 | 1.6 | R121 Regional Road (east of R135 Regional Road) | J833 | In-road | 5.9 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 45 | Full road closure | 50 | 8.5 |
| 1.21 | 1.6 | R121 Regional Road (east of R135 Regional Road) | J834 | In-road | 4.8 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 18 / 58 | | | |
| 1.23 | 0.8 | R121 Regional Road (west of R122 Regional Road) | J835 | In-road | 5.4 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 45 | Full road closure | 24 | 9.2 |
| 1.24 | 1.2 | R122 Regional Road (south of R121 Regional Road) | J836 | In-verge | 6.5 | n/a | 12 / 49 | Full road closure | 27 | 8.7 |
| 1.24 | 1.2 | R122 Regional Road (south of R121 Regional Road) | J837 | In-verge | 5.8 | Single lane closure | 15 / 47 | | | |
| 1.25 | 0.05 | Kilmuck Lane | n/a | n/a | 6.5 | n/a | n/a | Full road closure | 2 | 2.5 |
| 1.27 | 1.6 | R128 Regional Road (west of Road 100) | J839 | In-road | 7.4 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 46 | Single lane closure | 55 | 11.7 |
| 1.27 | 1.6 | R128 Regional Road (west of Road 100) | J840 | In-road | 7.4 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 44 | | | |
| 1.28 | 2.1 | Main Road (east of R128 Regional Road) | J841 | In-road | 7.4 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 15 / 45 | Single lane closure | 56 | 10.9 |
| 1.28 | 2.1 | Main Road (east of R128 Regional Road) | J842 | In-road | 6.8 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 14 / 46 | | | |
| 1.28 | 2.1 | Main Road (east of R128 Regional Road) | J843 | In-road | 7.5 | Passing Bay – two lane closure | 13 / 45 | | | |

As per the above extract, it is noted that the maximum duration for the full road closure is 134 days during Phase 2-Excavation and Cable Duct Installation along the TTM section 1.02 which is 7.2km long running along R156 regional road (west of R157 regional road). The review of Figure 14-2 (Diversion and Route for TTM sections) submitted as part of the EIA report illustrates that for a full road closure along R156 regional road (west of R157 regional road) a diversion route via R156 (west towards Jenkinstown), R125 (north towards Bedfanstown), R154 (east towards Piercetown) and M3 (south towards Junction 5) which is 24.1km long has been proposed.

It appears that further closures of the R-156 regional road will be required for the construction of Joint Bays 9 and 11.

Traffic Management Proposals

The traffic management proposals and their relevant impacts as detailed by the applicant within the submitted planning application has been outlined below.

1. For 'In-carriageway' Joint Bays:

- A localised lane closure would be required to support the installation of both the passing bay and joint bay structure.
- Where the road width at the location of the joint bay is greater than 10.5m, a passing bay would not be required and only lanes closure required.
- Where the road width is less than 10.5m and where there is suitable space to construct a passing bay, the proposed Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) is a passing bay with lanes closure to facilitate a single traffic signalled lane at the joint bay.
- Where the road width is less than 10.5m and where there is insufficient space to construct a passing bay, the proposed TTM is a full road closure with local access arrangements.

2. For 'In-Verge' Joint Bays:

- Where the road width at the location of the joint bay is greater than 7.5m, a temporary vehicular access platform will be required, however no lane restrictions would be required. A

Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) to protect the workforce and maintain access via the platform would be required.

- Where the road width at the location of the joint bay is less than 7.5m, a construction platform will be required with a single lane restriction.

3. Residual Open Carriageway (Width of construction works requires a minimum width of 4.2m for a total road width of 7.5m. Open Lane width 3.3m – 4.3m)

- Where the residual open carriageway is less than 2.5m the road will be required to be closed, with local access arrangements where necessary. Allowing vehicles to pass on a carriageway less than this width would pose considerable risk to road users and the delivery teams.
- Where the residual open carriageway is between 2.5m and 3m the road will be required to be closed to HGVs but open to LGVs / cars. All HGVs would be required to utilise the diversion route, this would require VMS and signage to mitigate the risk of HGVs passing the works sites.
- Where the residual open carriageway is greater than 3m, it is proposed to keep the road open to all road users utilising automated stop / go signals. Consideration to use automated signalling to account for the predominant flow direction. These would remain during the entirety of the section of works (i.e., out of hours included) to ensure safety to all road users and delivery teams.

Diversion Routes

The affected sections by the TTM in Co Meath and their relevant diversion routes have been outlined below:

- 1. For TTM Section 1.02 (7.2km in length) which is an in-carriageway section on a regional road and has 10no. joint bays along the alignment. A diversion route via R156 (west towards Jenkinstown), R125 (north towards Bedfanstown), R154 (east towards Piercetown) and M3 (south towards Junction 5) which is 24.1km long has been proposed.
- 2. For TTM Section 1.06 (1.6km in length) runs along L5026 local road on in-carriageway section and has 2no. joint bays along the alignment. A diversion route via R147 (south towards Bracetown), and L1010 (north towards Normansgrove) which is 3.3km long has been proposed.
- 3. For TTM Section 1.07 (0.7km in length) runs along L1010 local road to the west of the Pinkeen river on in-carriageway section and has 1no. joint bay along the alignment. A diversion route via R147 (North towards Galloping Horses Roundabout), R155 (North-East towards Ratoath), R125 Main Street (east towards Raystown) and Kilbride Road (South towards Kilbride and Hollywood) which is 20.9km long has been proposed. The same diversion route has also been proposed for the TTM Sections 1.09 (0.3km in length), 1.10 (1.4km in length) and 1.12 (0.9km in length) respectively.
- 4. For TTM Section 1.14 (1.1km in length) runs along Kilbride Road on in-carriageway section and has 1no. joint bay along the alignment. A diversion route via Kilbride Road, Priestown Road, Muckerstown Road (North towards M2), R135 (South towards The Ward Cross), and R121 Main Street (West towards Hollywood) which is 13.8km long has been proposed. The same diversion route has also been proposed for the TTM Section 1.16 (0.7km in length) respectively.

The applicant's proposal to close heavily trafficked public roads for the construction of the joint bays, rather than use their CPO powers to secure the necessary land for passing bays, should not be endorsed. The applicant should be required to construct joint bays off the paved surface of the public road and keep roads open to through traffic where possible.

Road closures can have a significant impact on the public's daily routines and travel plans. Increased traffic congestion, longer travel times, and the need to navigate unfamiliar routes are frequent consequences of road closures and construction projects. Drivers' and commuters' daily routines may be negatively impacted

by this, which can result in frustration and inconvenience. In some cases, road closures may also impact emergency services, such as ambulance or fire services. The use of long diversion routes can result in drivers taking alternative roads to shorten journey times. This can have a detrimental effect on the structural integrity of these roads resulting in significant damage to the surface of these roads. As such, the duration of any road closure should be kept to a minimum, particularly for heavily trafficked regional roads.

The applicant has not adequately demonstrated the requirement for such significant durations of road closures and there is no indication on whether there is expected to be an overlap in terms of sequencing of phases 1, 2 and 3. It would be expected that there to be some sort of overlap of phases – particularly on the R156 where there is a significant closure length.

The applicant should be requested to agree a Construction Stage Traffic Management Plan that would keep to a minimum the road closure durations and facilitate construction works proceeding progressively, section by section, thereby limiting traffic disruption to a short segment off the roadway at any given time.

Conflict with Water Courses and Third Party Services

There are sections of public road along the proposed route that either traverse a water course or are congested with third party services. The applicant does not appear to have completed sufficient site investigations to prove that there is adequate space available within the roadway to construct the cable and joint bays.

The applicant should be requested to demonstrate, at detailed design stage, that the proposed development can be constructed within the space available on the public road. The extent of ground investigations necessary should be submitted for agreement prior to commencement of the development.

Impact on Planned Road Improvement Works

There are short and long term plans to complete road improvement works along the proposed route of the HV cable and joint bays. The road improvement works include the upgrade of the R-157 to dual carriageway and the construction of two signalised junction on the R-157 in Dunboyne North. There is a possible conflict between the upgrade works and the location of the cable and joint bays.

The applicant should be requested to submit a design proposal to ensure that the proposed works do not prejudice or restrict the completion of the proposed road improvements along the route.

Cable Trench Impacts

The applicant has proposed construction of a trench of approximately 1.5m in width and approximately 1.3m in depth in the public road (approximately 26km) and approximately 1.8m in depth in private lands (approximately 11.5km) in which the underground cable circuit is laid in flat formation, with associated above ground route marker posts. Route marker posts will be located at field boundaries where the proposed underground cable circuit is laid in private land, at regular intervals in road verges where the proposed underground cable circuit is in-road, in road verges where the proposed underground cable circuit crosses any roads, and at Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) crossing locations. The construction of the proposed cable trench will be for a Temporary duration (typically 40m to 50m of cable trench is proposed to be constructed in one day, meaning these impacts are predicted to last for between 26 and 227 days, although not consecutively).

HV Cable and Joint Bays - Impacts

Joint Bays are underground chambers, located at various points on the proposed route. They are used as locations to pull the cables into the pre-installed ducts and to connect ('joint') together the individual cables and create a single, overall continuous circuit. The applicant has proposed the construction of 49 Joint Bays (on average every 750m), primarily in the public roads (33 Joint Bays), each approximately 10m in length, 2.5m in width and 2.5m in depth, with adjacent communication chambers and link boxes, along the full alignment of the underground cable circuit. Where the Joint Bays are located off-road (19 Joint Bays), permanent hardstanding areas will be created around the Joint Bays.

The proposed underground cable will be delivered to site in individual lengths on cable drums. These lengths will be installed along the proposed cable route by using 'Joint Bays'. Smaller buried chambers ('manholes') will be installed alongside Joint Bay locations, of which there are two types:

- C2 chambers, which are used to join the fibre optic communication cables pulled into the pre-installed communications ducts; and
- Link box chambers, which are used to accommodate the link box (a device which earths the outer sheaths of the power cables).

Joint Bays will consist of precast concrete walls and bases located below-ground. Lean mix concrete (blinding) will be used as a regulating layer to the underside of the chamber. The ducts will be installed to each end of the chamber, then checked, cleaned and sealed. The open concrete chamber will temporarily support the retained ground on the outside of the chamber during the ducting activities. Once these activities are completed, the open chamber will be temporarily backfilled with appropriate material and the road temporarily reinstated until cable installation. During cable installation, the Joint Bay will be reopened, and material within the chamber will be removed and replaced following completion of the cable installation.

It is noted from Figure 2 that several of the joint bays are proposed to be located "in verge". This proposal may present as an issue if future upgrades such as footpaths/cycle tracks are proposed alongside the existing road. The issue arises from the fact that this is generally where services are located.

The size (particularly the width) of the proposed joint bays may result in the bay "straddling" a combination of footpath/cycle track which may be an issue that could result in uneven subsidence and therefore surface failures on both the road and ancillary pavements.

The joint bays may also restrict future junction development, particularly where signal control is required.

The construction of the HV underground cable within the public road will limit/restrict the space available for the provision of other services including telecoms, water, wastewater, surface water etc. The proposed cable route passes through an area of unserviced land that is zoned for development in Dunboyne North. The applicant should be requested to demonstrate that the proposed development will not prevent/restrict the provision of services to development land along the cable route. A similar commitment by Eirgrid regarding the provision of service crossings along the cable route of the East West Interconnector should be included as a condition of the proposed development – see below.



Service crossings associated with commercial developments

1. EirGrid will not unreasonably withhold consent towards any commercial service provider wishing to cross the DC cables in public roads.
2. EirGrid will provide a representative to attend meetings regarding proposed crossings of the DC cables with commercial services. Attendance at meetings will require 2 weeks notice.
3. EirGrid will review all engineering crossing designs and will not unreasonably withhold approval of same.
4. EirGrid will provide all relevant health and safety information, including as laid drawings associated with commercial services crossing the DC cables.
5. EirGrid will provide a technical representative during construction works associated with a crossing. Attendance on site will require 2 weeks notice.
6. All construction costs will be the responsibility of the developer.

Service crossings associated with County Council works and one-off housing developments

1. EirGrid will not unreasonably prevent any services associated with any one-off housing, or County Council works, crossing the DC cables in public roads, provided the work is executed in accordance with EirGrid's instructions.
2. EirGrid will provide a representative to attend meetings regarding proposed crossings of the DC cables with potential developers of one-off housing and County Council works. Attendance at meetings will require 2 weeks notice.
3. EirGrid will provide all crossing designs associated with one-off housing and County Council works, at no cost to the developer.
4. EirGrid will provide all relevant health and safety information, including as laid drawings associated with a crossing for one-off housing and County Council works, at no cost to the developer.
5. EirGrid will provide a technical advisor during construction works associated with a crossing, at no cost to the developer. Attendance on site will require 2 weeks notice.
6. All construction costs will be the responsibility of the developer.
7. EirGrid will cover its own costs in relation to 1 to 5 above.

The Grid 100 Sustainable Road

Design

www.eirgrid.com

Recommended Conditions

It is recommended that the following conditions be applied to the planning permission, if granted:

General

1. The undertaker shall submit for agreement, prior to commencement, the detailed design of the proposed development. This includes, but is not limited to, ground investigations, watercourse/bridges/culvert crossings, M3 crossing, ducting/joint box locations, cover levels and cable route.

Reason: In the interest of proper planning

2. The undertaker shall submit for agreement, prior to commencement, a Construction Stage Traffic Management Plan. This plan shall focus on mitigating the impact of lane / road closures during the construction as well as the development of traffic diversion strategies. The plan shall also provide details of the road network to be used by construction traffic, including over-sized loads, and detailed arrangements for the protection of bridges, culverts or other structures to be traversed, as may be required. The delivery of abnormal loads for the construction shall be managed in accordance with the approved Traffic Management Plan. The plan should also contain details of how the undertaker intends to engage with and notify the local community in advance of potential lane / road closures.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity

3. The undertaker shall monitor traffic queuing time/delays at each works location and record traffic flows on the local road network at locations to be agreed with the planning authority. Such monitoring information shall be provided in a report to the planning authority on a weekly basis.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

4. A pre-condition survey shall be carried out on all public roads and bridges that will be used in connection with the development to record their condition in advance of construction commencing. A post-construction survey will also be carried out after the works are completed. The specification, timing and extent of the surveys will be agreed with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The surveys shall include the roads within which the cable is to be installed as well as roads used, directly and indirectly, as diversion routes. The undertaker shall complete any remedial works, or cover the costs of same, resulting from the proposed development.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

5. The undertaker shall submit for agreement a programme which provides full details of the proposed construction and cabling sequence in relation road closures and resulting traffic management prior to the start of construction. The programme shall be provided using Microsoft Project or an equivalent alternative. The project shall be adequately resourced to minimize the road closure durations.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

6. The undertaker shall obtain a Road Opening Licence for all works to be carried out on public roads. All works undertaken in the regional and local road networks are to comply with the "Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads" published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in April 2017 (The Purple Book). Works on national roads to comply with TII requirements.

Reason: To maintain the structural integrity of the local and regional road network

7. The spacing of the cables / ducts shall comply with the requirements in the relevant standard drawings of the Purple Book (Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads) and with the minimum dimensions stated within 110 kV, 220 kV and 400 kV Underground Cable Functional Specification (CDS-GFS-00-001-R1). These documents provide essential details regarding transverse openings, temporary & permanent reinstatement, and minimum vertical and horizontal spacing requirements.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and road user safety.

8. The undertaker shall agree with Meath County Council to have representatives from Meath County Council to supervise works along the route network during the construction phase of the scheme. All costs associated with the provision of representatives to be borne by the undertaker.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

9. The undertaker shall investigate/implement an alternative to the construction of permanent reinforced concrete joint boxes as a means of connecting cable lengths due to the significant impact on the public road network and future development potential. It is noted that on other HV projects, including the East West Interconnector, that permanent concrete joint boxes were not used. Proposals to be agreed with Meath Co Council prior to commencement of works.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

10. The undertaker shall, if the implementation of joint boxes is unavoidable, investigate removable sidewalks to the proposed joint boxes. This would increase the overall cover provided and reduce the impact in providing services for future development.

Reason: To allow for economical future development.

11. The undertaker should ensure that, where feasible, joint boxes be located outside of the carriageway/verges and, if possible, they should be designed to be temporary, allowing for relocation if necessary.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

12. A standard design detail and construction methodology for the installation of joint bays in the road reservation using trench boxes, or similar, shall be agreed with the road authority prior to the commencement of development. On completion of the cable jointing at each joint location, the road verge and/or pavement shall be reinstated to the satisfaction of the road authority.

Reason: To safeguard the significant investment in the road network.

13. The undertaker shall ensure that thermal sand within the joint boxes is compacted to the required standard of the road. The final surface (subgrade or subbase) shall be subject to CBR testing or any other compaction tests which shall be at the discretion of the MCC representative on site.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

14. Meath County Council reserves the right to adjust joint box and cable locations in order to avoid conflicts with potential future developments, prior to construction. The relocation shall include design factors such longitudinal repositioning, depth and alignment.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

15. The undertaker shall not unreasonably prevent or restrict the future upgrade of any public road along the proposed route of the HV cable. The upgrade of a road includes, but is not limited to, resurfacing and restoration works, improvements to the vertical and horizontal alignment, widening, junction improvements including signalisation, drainage improvements, bridge and culvert upgrades, provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities or the provision of safety measures including public lighting and vehicle containment barriers. Where road upgrade works are required:
 - a. The Undertaker shall provide a representative to attend meetings, assist with the design and supervise the construction works on or adjacent to the cable, with 2 weeks' notice and free of charge.
 - b. The construction of the HV cable should not prevent or restrict the Road Authority, in exercising its statutory duties, from completing upgrade works to the public roads. The Undertaker shall divert the cable, if required, to facilitate the road upgrade works. All costs associated with diverting the HV cable and/or its ancillary equipment shall be borne by the undertaker, unless otherwise agreed.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and to safeguard the significant investment in the road network.

16. The undertaker shall not unreasonably prevent any services associated with the development of zoned lands from crossing the HV cable. The undertaker shall provide a representative to attend meetings, assist with the design and supervise construction of service crossings for any future works on or adjacent to affected roads, with 2 weeks' notice, free of charge.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

17. Service chambers, manholes, and similar infrastructure should not be placed within the carriageway, especially along the wheel lines. This shall also apply to cycle lanes. Communication infrastructure, including chambers, ducting and cables shall be used for the operation of the proposed HV cable only.

Reason: In the interest of safety.

18. The undertaker shall provide full details of decommissioning proposals once the project has reached the end of its design life. MCC reserve the right to remove segments of the proposed scheme on a case by case basis once decommissioned.

Reason: To protect the integrity of the road network.

Horizontal Drilling

19. Where the minimum standard "vertical cover" requirements cannot be achieved e.g. bridge crossings, then an alternate route shall be taken, or Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shall be investigated as an option. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or other appropriate alternatives shall be utilised for all crossings with appropriate plans and details to be agreed with the relevant road authority in advance of any construction. Details of the methods to be employed shall be agreed in writing with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and TII.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to protect the integrity and carrying capacity of the public road network.

20. The undertaker has proposed implementation of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or other trenchless techniques along the three Motorways, the M1, M2 and M3 and the M3 parkway rail line to minimise impacts and to ensure no disruption to operational services. Appropriate plans and details of the methodology to be employed shall be agreed in writing with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, and TII in advance of any construction.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and road user safety.

Report prepared by:

Joe Mc Garvey
Senior Executive Engineer,
Transportation Department

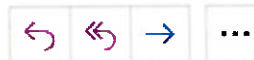
Broadband Department

RE: SID Referral Report - EirGrid Proposed East Meath – North...




Cormac McCann

To  Teresa O'Reilly



Thu 16/05

 You replied to this message on 16/05/2024 16:09.

Hi Teresa,

I've no comments to make on this as a commercial development.

Regards,

Cormac McCann

Broadband Officer | Community

Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath C15 Y291

Transportation (Public Lighting) Department

Duncan Byrne

To: Planning Referrals
Subject: SID Referral Report - EirGrid Proposed East Meath – North Dublin Grid 400kV Upgrade 319422-24

Planning Reference: **SID Referral Report - EirGrid Proposed East Meath – North Dublin Grid 400kV Upgrade 319422-24**

To Planning Section,

I refer to the above planning application and the following points are made;

No external lighting shown in development. No comments.

*Regards,
Duncan Byrne,
Executive Engineer,
Public Lighting,
Transportation,
Meath County Council.*

Fire Department

Comhairle Chontae na Mí
Roinn na Seirbhíse Dóiteáin
Br. an Mainistir, An Uaimh, Co. na Mí, C15 A407
Fón: 046 – 9051068/Fax: 046 – 9029575
R-phost: customerservice@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie



Meath County Council
Fire Service Department
Abbey Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 A407
Tel: 046 – 9051068/Fax: 046 – 9029575
E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie

Planning Dept,
Buvinda House,
Dublin Road,
Navan.

Planning App. Ref. No: ABP-319422-24 SID

Applicant: EirGrid Group

Agent:

Development: Strategic Infrastructure Development - Proposed East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade (400kV Underground Cable) between Batterstown Co. Meath and Clonshaugh Co. Fingal

Please note the following recommendation:-

1. There is no requirement to submit a Fire Safety Certificate application under Part III of the Building Control Regulations for the proposed works.

Is mise, le meas,

Pádraig Ó Longaigh
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Archaeology – *under separate cover*

Appendix 2: Site Photos

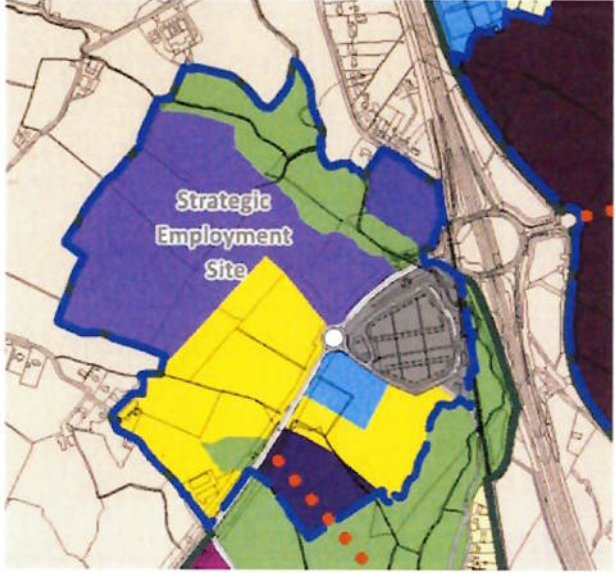
Under separate cover

Appendix 3: Development Contribution Scheme for County Meath 2024-2029

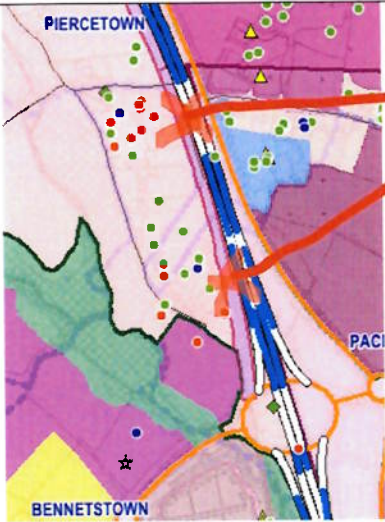

https://www.meath.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2023-12/Meath%20County%20Council%20Development%20Contribution%20Scheme%202024%20-%202029_0.pdf

Appendix 4: Planning Applications along the route in County Meath

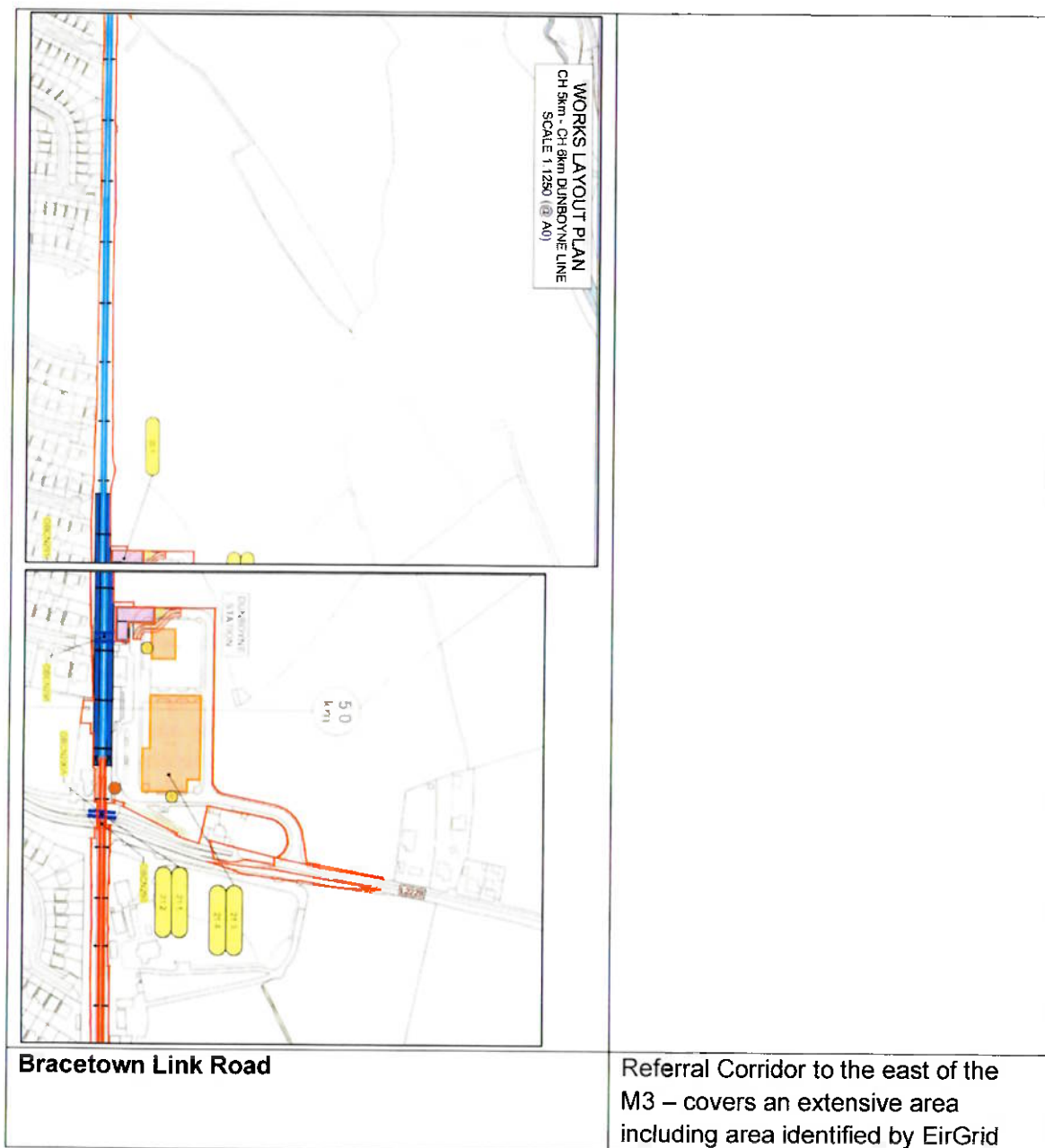
Relevant Planning Information – CP1021

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Land Use Zoning (MCDP 2021-2027)</p> <p>Dunboyne – Clonee - Pace</p>  <p>https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan/chapter/dunboyne-clonee-and-pace</p> | <p>LEGEND</p> <p>Zoning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1 - Existing Residential A2 - New Residential B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre C1 - Mixed Use E1/E3 - Strategic Employment Zones (High Technology Uses/ Warehousing & Distribution) E2 - General Enterprise and Employment E2/E3 - General Enterprise and Employment/ Warehousing and Distribution E3 - Warehousing and Distribution F1 - Open Space G1 - Community Infrastructure RA - Rural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement Boundary Legal County Council - Administrative Area Masterplan Boundary A2 Phasing - Residential land not available for development until post 2027 Strategic Employment Site Transport - Indicative Road Route Future Gateway Building |
| <p>Kilbride</p> | <p>LEGEND</p> <p>Zoning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1 - Existing Residential A2 - New Residential B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre C1 - Mixed Use E2 - General Enterprise and Employment F1 - Open Space G1 - Community Infrastructure TU - Transport and Utilities RA - Rural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement Boundary <p>Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of Protected Structure Trees to be Protected |

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan/chapter/kilbride</p> | |
| <p>Junction 5 off the M3</p>  | |
| <p>Navan Rail line – Irish Rail Reservation Corridor</p> | |

| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Irish Rail – Rail Reservation Landtake (see area in lilac adjoining the M3) to the north of</p> |
|  | <p>Railway Order Application (Currently with ABP) –overlaps site</p> <p>A Railway Order Application Site Location (<i>includes part of current application site</i>). A Railway Order Application¹³ was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 29th July 2022 for the Dart+ West (Maynooth and M3 Parkway to the City Centre). The aim is to promote multi modal transit, active transport, boost regional connectivity and make public transport the preferred option for more and more people. The DART+ Programme will deliver frequent, modern, electrified services within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and will improve connectivity to regional towns and cities. An Oral Hearing was held in September and October 2023 and a decision is yet to be made.</p> |

¹³ Drawings for the Railway Order Application are available here:



<https://www.dartplus.ie/S3mvc/media/DART-West-Railway-Order/3%20Railway%20Order%20Drawings/Book%201%20%20Railway%20Works%20Plan/Book-1-Railway-Works-Plan-Part-2.pdf>

Masterplan Area 22 (MCDP 2021-2027)

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/development-plans/master-plans/master-plan-22-lands-at-dunboyne-north>

Pre-planning discussions

Consultation with PA on development of these lands is advancing so discussion with landowners is *advised*.

- Large-scale residential development (LRD) proposal at an advanced stage immediately south of M3 Parkway.
- Other potential LRD (100+ units) applications in MP22.



Planning Application Details

Please use the following link (Meath County Council) to find further information of specific planning applications including maps, drawings, etc. The link for An Bord Pleanála is also provided below.


- <https://www.eplanning.ie/MeathCC/searchtypes>
- <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/home>

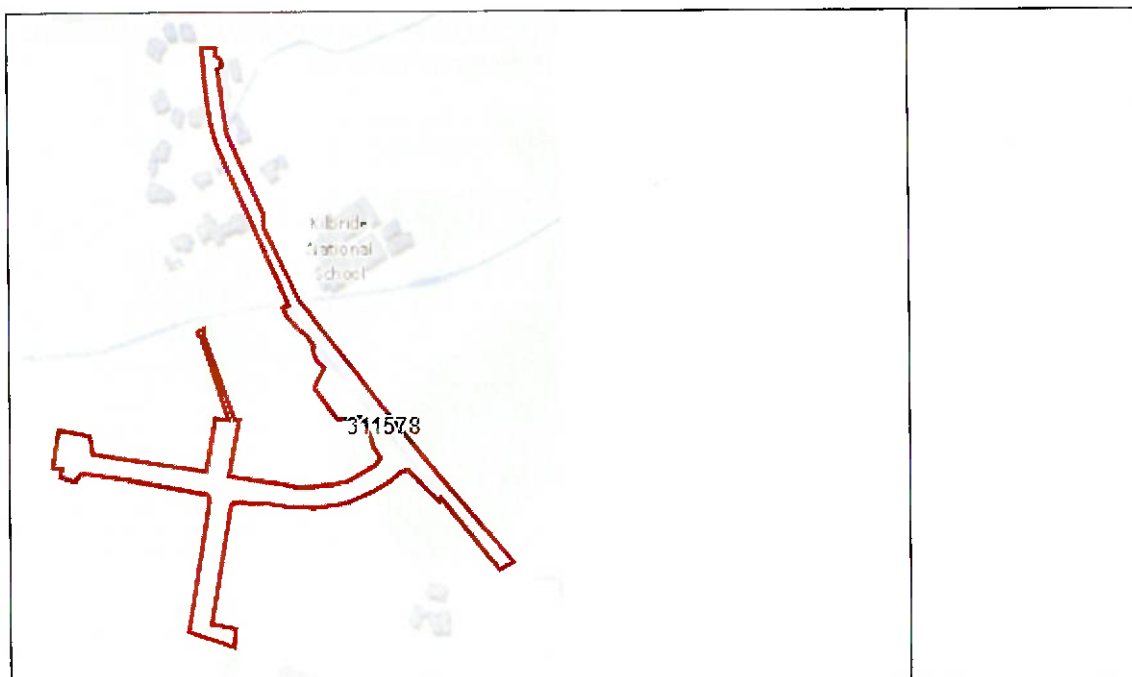
Planning Applications in Vicinity of Woodland

Substation & Solar Farm proposal (off 220kV OHL Gorman-Maynooth)


| | |
|---|---|
| | L62051. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). |
| Planning Application – North-South Interconnector | |
| VA0017 – Eirgrid Culmullin to Bogganstown (ED Culmullin Towers 392 to 402 (Existing Oldstreet to Woodland OHL Route)  | North-South 400kV Interconnector which was granted in 2020. The 138km (overhead line) extends to a substation at Woodland, Co. Meath.  |

| | |
|--|--|
| Planning Applications in Vicinity of Pace/ Junction 5 | |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
|  | |
| <p>There are a no. of applications in the vicinity (see above) and a High Court Challenge to ABP-307546-20 was dismissed (Enginenode) regarding a 2021 An Bord Pleanála decision to grant a data centre at Bracetown.</p> <p>https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/Map-search</p> | |
| <p>Planning Applications at Kilbride (ABP)</p> | |



| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <p>Pl. Ref. 2360065</p> | <p>(Further Information requested on 21/07/2023) – immediately south of the M3 Parkway</p> <p>10-year permission for development in the townlands of Bennetstown, Pace, and Dunboyne. The subject site (2.79ha) encompasses an area of 0.87ha situated to the south-west of the M3 Parkway and south-east of the Dunboyne Bypass (R157) located in the townland of Bennetstown, and the balance (1.92ha) located in the Townlands of Pace, Bennetstown and Dunboyne including the Dunboyne Bypass (R157) and M3 Parkway access, Kennedy Road and Navan Road for infrastructure works. The development will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Construction of a single-storey commercial building with a cumulative gross floor space (GFS) of 2,160 sq.m comprising: a. A supermarket with delivery, store and service area (1,880 sq.m), including net retail floorspace of 1,510 sq.m, and b. 2 commercial units (combined 280 sq.m) to facilitate Class 1 (Shop), Class 2 (Financial, Professional and Other Services) or Café (food and beverage) uses. ii. Provision of a 4-arm signalised junction replacing the existing Pace roundabout to include a new northern arm with segregated cycleway and footpath; iii. Upgrade works to the existing R157 and M3 Parkway access road to facilitate junction improvements; iv. Access to the development is proposed via a new 3-arm priority-controlled junction from the upgraded southern arm of the proposed 4-arm signalised junction, with 6m wide internal access roads to serve the development; v. A total of 118 surface level car parking spaces including 6 disabled access bays and 4 electric car charging points; vi. 20 short-stay bicycle parking spaces; vii. 1 Electricity substation / switch room; viii. Foul sewer connection to existing public system including pumping station on site with rising mains along Kennedy Road and Navan Road; |
|--------------------------------|---|

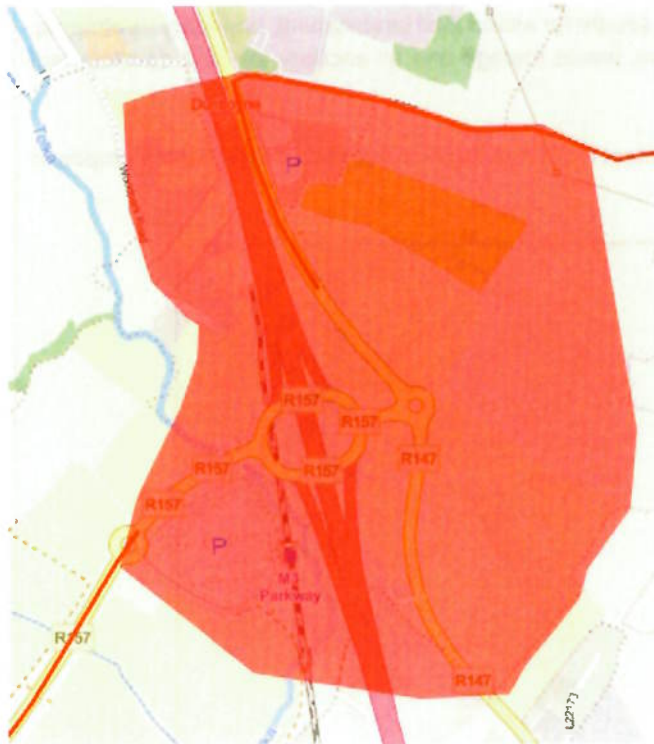
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|----------------|--|
| | <p>ix. Permission is also sought for hard and soft landscaping, lighting, attenuation and drainage and all ancillary site development works.</p>  |
| Pl. Ref. 23424 | <p>(Further Information requested on 09/06/2023)</p> <p>To the north-west of site and R-157 within the Masterplan Area (No. 22) – Bennetstown, Pace, Dunboyne. The development will consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 3 no. office buildings with a cumulative gross floor area (GFA) of 13,729 sq.m ranging in height from 3 to 4- storeys and shall comprise the following: a. Building 1 (3,597 sq.m GFA) 3-storeys in height (12.35 metres to top of parapet), with a setback louvred screen 2m above parapet level. b. Building 2 (5,336 sq.m GFA) 4-storeys in height (16.125 metres to top of parapet), with a setback louvred screen 2m above parapet level. c. Building 3 (4,796 sq.m GFA) 4-storeys in height (16.125 metres to top of parapet), with a setback louvred screen 2m above parapet level. Roof mounted solar PV panels (c. 180 sq.m combined area); Provision of a 4-arm signalised junction replacing the existing Pace roundabout to include a new northern arm with segregated cycleway and footpath; Access to the development is proposed from the new northern arm, with 6m wide internal access roads to serve the development; Upgrade works to the R157 and M3 Parkway access road to facilitate junction improvements; A total of 275 surface car parking spaces including 14 disabled access bays and 55 electric car charging points; 280 bicycle parking spaces in 3 secure cycle storage areas adjacent to the buildings; Site signage is to be erected, all spot-lit and back-lit illuminated, including 2 no. type 1 entrance signs (6.15m x 2.4m) and 3 no. type 2 building signs (1.35m x 2.4m); 3 standalone electricity substations; Foul sewer connection to existing public system including pumping station on site with rising mains along Kennedy Road and Navan Road; |

- i. Watermain connection to the northeast of site at Pace for connection to Irish Water Infrastructure;
- i. Permission is also sought for associated landscaping, boundary treatments, public lighting, plant, waste storage and all ancillary site and development works.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.



Snapshot of Applications within this area



| Planning No. | Decision | Address Line 1 | Address Line 2 | Applicant | Development Description | Decision No. |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| 02/127 | Granted (C)M | Bennettsburn | Dunboyne | John Patrick Cogan | For retention of revised site boundaries, entrance/canopy and house together with renovations to existing garage and construct new garage | 02/09/2007 |
| 02/283 | Refused | Sheafill Wheat | Dunboyne | B. M. B. Manning | To erect single storey dwelling and septic tank | 21/04/1992 |
| 21/236 | Refused | Woodbank Road | Pace Dunboyne | Jaume Tiedt | The development consists of permission to construct a part two-storey part single storey dwelling house attached garage new wastewater treatment system and percolation area new well and all associated site development works | 06/04/2001 |
| RA/2/148 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Jaume Tiedt | Permission to construct a part two-storey part single storey dwelling house attached garage new wastewater treatment system and percolation area and all associated site development works | 04/11/2003 |
| RA/5/121 | Refused | Woodbank Road | Pace | Jaume Tiedt | Permission to construct a part two-storey part single storey dwelling house attached garage new wastewater treatment system and percolation area and all associated site development works | 11/11/2019 |
| RA/1/219 | Refused | Woodbank Road | Pace | Jaume Tiedt | Permission to construct a part two-storey part single storey dwelling house attached garage new wastewater treatment system and percolation area and all associated site development works | 11/11/2019 |
| DA/200/158 | Pending or W | Bennettsburn & Pace | North Of Dublin | Margaret Kelly Carran | The construction of a temporary park & ride facility accommodating 1,200 at grade surface car parking spaces the proposed development will be accessed from the pace m3 motorway interchange (Under construction, via the m3 summit toll box) | 01/07/1900 |
| DA/2/536 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | James Roche | Retention of two no. single storey extensions to the rear of existing bungalow increased of 45 sqm | 23/12/2008 |
| DA/2/345 | Pending or W | Bennettsburn | Dunboyne | James Roche | 2 no single storey extensions to the rear comprising of 45sqm | 31/01/1900 |
| 98/140 | Granted (C)M | McNalls | Pickinall | Henry & Elizabeth Allen | A sunroom extension to the front of their house and the retention of a carport structure to the side | 05/04/1998 |
| 88/24 | Granted (C)M | Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Michael "Tommy" McKeen | Installation of toilet facilities and septic tank | 05/08/1989 |
| DA/2/228 | Refused | Quarryland | Dunboyne | Angus Robertson | The erection of a dormer bungalow and waste water treatment unit and percolation area | 14/01/2006 |
| DA/2/30 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | R. A. & P. Tiedt | Erection of new two storey house and new stable/barn with new site entrance new manure pit 2 new underground collection tanks new bicycle waste water treatment system and all associated site and drainage work | 27/02/2004 |
| DA/2/543 | Pending or W | Packingtonstown | Donohoe | David Kelly | The construction of a single storey dwelling garage and proposed new entrance with proprietary effluent treatment system | 22/12/2006 |
| 34/315 | Granted (C)M | Nathan Road | Dunboyne | B. & M. Manning | Erection of new canopy pump and associated site works also new shop front and signage | 03/05/1995 |
| 39/212 | Refused | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Christopher Weather | Erection of dwellinghouse garage and septic tank and well | 01/01/1906 |
| DA/2/278 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | R. A. & P. Tiedt | Erection of new two storey house and new stable/barn with new site entrance new manure pit 2 new underground collection tanks new bicycle waste water treatment system and all associated site and drainage work (previous ref DA/2/207) | 12/06/2005 |
| DA/2/347 | Refused | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Brendan Roche | A single storey dwelling house and garage to primary effluent treatment unit and percolation area a new site entrance and any ancillary site works | 18/02/2005 |
| DA/2/14 | Pending or W | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Tina Harney | Development which will consist of the construction of a dormer style dwelling house septic tank and percolation effluent treatment system and existing service road | 24/02/2005 |
| DA/2/40 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Brendan Roche | Development which will consist of erection of a new proposed dwellinghouse installation of a biofilter treatment plant and percolation area site access onto public road and to include a other ancillary site services and development works | 23/01/2007 |
| DA/2/291 | Refused | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | R. A. & P. Tiedt | Erection of new two storey house and domestic garage with new site entrance new stables and feed storage barn new manure pit 2 new underground collection tanks new bicycle waste water treatment system and all associated site and drainage | 23/06/2004 |
| DA/2/184 | Refused | Bennettsburn | Dunboyne | Stephen & Yvonne Ross | Retention and completion and construction of extension to existing dwelling septic tank percolation effluent treatment system and septic tank area | 03/10/2003 |
| DA/2/113 | Pending or W | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | R. A. Tiedt & P. Tiedt | Erection of new two storey house and domestic garage with new site entrance new bicycle waste water treatment system new stables and feed storage barn | 15/06/2004 |
| DA/2/411 | Pending or W | Bennettsburn | Dunboyne | Stephen & Yvonne Ross | Retention and completion and construction of extension to dwelling dwelling septic tank percolation effluent treatment system and percolation area | 01/01/1990 |
| DA/2/206 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Brian Maher | Development which will consist of proposed glasshouse incorporating retail provision restaurant and ancillary services also significant revised plans included as part of further information submission under planning ref DA/2/006 | 26/11/2002 |
| DA/1/211 | Granted (C)M | M3 Parkway Station | Bennettsburn | James Egan | The conversion of the existing station building to use as staff accommodation for airport services the business interior will be submitted to provide offices canteen toilet and shower facility outdoor signs and storage construction of a new open | 18/05/2019 |
| RA/1/2019 | Pending or W | M3 Parkway Station | Bennettsburn | James Egan | The conversion of the existing station building to use as staff accommodation for airport services the business interior will be submitted to provide offices canteen toilet and shower facility outdoor signs and storage construction of a new open | 01/01/1900 |
| DA/2/428 | Granted (C)M | Woodbank Road | Pace Dunboyne | Brian Maher | Development which will consist of proposed signage erection consisting of 2 no. 3m x 5m directional signs with garden works landscaping one to the front entrance drive and one to the south of existing car park | 27/11/2003 |
| DA/2/412 | Granted (C)M | Garden Works | Pace Dunboyne | Brian Maher | Development which will consist of the replacement and installation of existing storage shed with a new single storey structure at the rear of the existing garden works building and also to include site ancillary works | 27/11/2003 |
| 99/207 | Granted (C)M | Pace | Dunboyne | G. Garmon | To construct a new first floor dormer bedroom at existing dwelling | 27/06/1999 |
| DA/1/2087 | Granted (C)M | Garden Works | Pace Dunboyne | Paladin Holdings | (a) retention permission of two number 3m x 5m signs with garden works landscaping near main entrance to the site | 21/11/2011 |
| DA/1/2081 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| DA/1/2081 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| DA/1/2081 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| RA/1/2019 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| RA/1/2019 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| RA/1/2019 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| RA/1/2019 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| 9/1/497 | Refused | Pace | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| 86/178 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| 95/88 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| 96/140 | Granted (C)M | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |
| 01/635 | Refused | Pace Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Topaz Energy Ltd | The construction of an off line motorway services area comprising: 1) an amenity building of 996.8sqm gross floor area and including a convenience shop 11.0sqm net retail area a food court with 3 no food off-kegs seating areas ancillary store | 24/04/2017 |

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|----------|----------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|---|------------|
| 04/0059 | Refused | Waterhead | Face | R & T Ltd | The erection of new two storey detached house with south facing rear garden & single storey garage with new side entrance & for new bioactive waste water treatment system & verandah area together with all associated site works | 07/04/2018 |
| 04/0064 | Granted | Clon Place | Face and | James S. Maura Homes | The development will consist of an extension to existing dwelling incorporating new sitting room, dining room, playroom, kitchen, utility hall & toilet on ground floor. 3 new bedrooms, one with ensuite & bathroom at first floor. minor internal only | 18/05/2014 |
| 04/0080 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | Kathleen Jones | To construct a bungalow | 15/11/1998 |
| 04/0222 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | Joseph M. Kelly | To relocate septic tank | 14/09/1998 |
| 07/082 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | Gerry Kelly | To build a two storey house extension to the back of existing house for dwelling purposes | 22/08/1998 |
| 07/097 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | James & Gail, Enright | Construct bungalow garage and septic tank | 09/12/1995 |
| 07/145 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | William C. Kane | A 3 storey dormer extension to the rear and a new porch to the front of residence | 11/02/1996 |
| 138 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | David Rogers | Amendments to building planning permission ref 22/351. Rear and side single-storey extension - infill the existing verandah area to the rear & give an extra bedroom. enlarge previously granted roof window to the front | 07/09/2023 |
| 22/1004 | Granted | Clon Face | Dunboyne | Isabelle Tiedt | To construct a part two-storey part single-storey dwelling house, attached garage, new wastewater treatment system and associated area, new well and all associated site development works | 6/10/2022 |
| 23/51 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | David Rogers | After conversion for 3 bedrooms first floor with 3 dormer windows to the rear and 8 velux windows to the front | 21/06/2022 |
| 23/68 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | James Tiedt | Permission to construct a part two-storey part single-storey dwelling house, attached garage, new wastewater treatment system and associated area, new well and all associated site development works | 13/08/2021 |
| 04/558 | Refused | Bennettstown | Dunboyne | John Patrick Grogan | Dormer extension/removals and change of use for part of existing dwelling for bed and breakfast facilities | 06/06/1994 |
| 04/179 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | Mary A. Jackson | To erect a part two-storey domestic garage and a septic tank and purflo system for disposal of effluent from septic tank on lands | 22/01/1995 |
| 06/100 | Granted | Clon Face | Dunboyne | Andrew McEntee | Garage extension and alterations to existing dwelling | 01/01/1997 |
| 20/22 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | Ann McKeefy | Extension of extension to dwelling, new roof with solar roof lights over existing dwelling and quarry flat extension to dwelling | 13/04/2000 |
| 02/208 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | John C. Cullen | Construction of a house with built-in small sewage treatment plant, also entrance to public roadway | 16/03/2001 |
| 02/160 | Refused | Face | Dunboyne | Max A. O'Leary | To erect a house, domestic garage and septic tank | 6/01/1994 |
| 0/091 | Granted | Clon Face | Dunboyne | G. McGinn | To erect a single-storey granny flat extension to the rear of house and to relocate a new septic tank on the site | 23/11/1990 |
| 00665 | Refused | Bennettstown | Dunboyne | Steven & Valerie Ross | To demolish existing bungalow dwelling & to construct a new dwelling together with septic tank, purflo waste water treatment system with percolation area & all associated site works | 01/06/2000 |
| 02/649 | Granted | Clon Woodbank | Dunboyne | Mr & Mrs B. Manning | To erect single-storey dwelling with septic tank | 14/07/1992 |
| 04/01808 | Pending in W. Bennettstown | Face | Dunboyne | James Roche | Redevelopment of two no. single-storey extensions to the side of existing bungalow | 01/01/1990 |
| 03/0065 | Pending in W. Bennettstown | Face | Dunboyne | Michael Kelly Homes | The major multi-story houses intend to apply for a 10-year permission for development in the townlands of Bennettstown, Dunboyne the subject site (1) "the" encompasses an area of 0.8 ha. Situated to the south-west of the M1 Parkway and 0.1 ha 1900 | 01/01/1990 |
| 03/014 | Pending in W. Bennettstown | Face | Dunboyne | Michael Kelly Homes | The development will consist of a construction of 3 no. office buildings with a univariate glass floor area of 11,720 sqm ranging in height from 2 to 4 stories and shall comprise the following: a building 1 (1,000 sqm glass floor area) in height 4.1-5.1m 1900 | 01/01/1990 |

Snapshot of Applications along R156 (within c.70m)



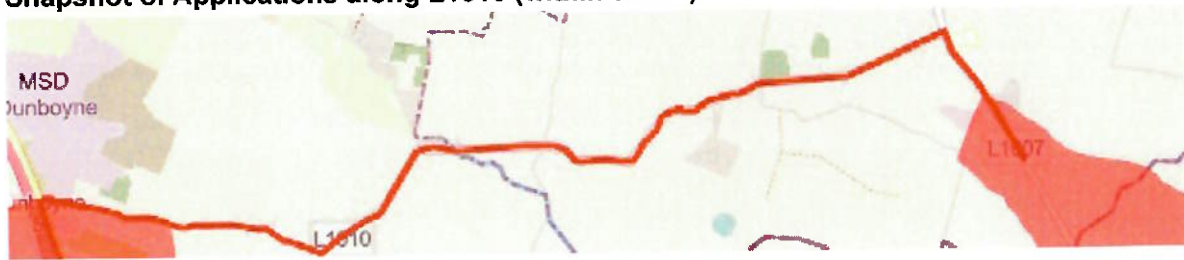
| Planning Ref | Decision | Applicant | Address, Line1 | Address, Line2 | Development/Description | Decision/Ref |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|--------------|
| 89/11 | Refused | James Maher | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Erection of dwelling and septic tank | 23/07/1989 |
| 89/137 | Granted (Conditional) | Don Connolly | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention of kitchen/breaker house and storm porch construction of extension to porch and conversion of attic | 21/04/1989 |
| 89/138 | Granted (Conditional) | Des Connolly | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Construction of extension conservatory garage and games room and other alterations to property | 25/02/1989 |
| 90/52/10 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick Thompson | Dunboyne Industrial | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of an installation in waste processing from 5,000 tonnes per annum to 20,000 tonnes per annum at an existing materials recovery and civic amenity facility | 19/07/2005 |
| 94/108 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick C. Gera | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention and completion of a 2 storey extension consisting of kitchen diningroom 2 bedrooms and including re-roofing existing cottage | 25/03/1995 |
| 95/33 | Granted (Conditional) | James Collins | James Collins | Dunboyne | To convert existing domestic garage and entrance | 23/09/1996 |
| 96/30 | Granted (Conditional) | Tommy Lacey | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | Re-roofing, alterations and second storey dormer extension to existing storm damaged bungalow | 25/04/1996 |
| 96/31 | Granted (Conditional) | Tommy Mahoney | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | To convert existing bungalow to dormer bungalow providing dormer windows to front of dwelling and velux windows to rear and an extension incorporating | 22/02/1997 |
| 96/33 | Granted (Conditional) | Danny Maguire | Sallymore Park | Dunboyne | To convert existing garage to living room and to build a first floor bathroom extension and a domestic garage | 27/09/1996 |
| 96/116 | Granted (Conditional) | Uir Fagan | Buckhall Bay | Dunboyne | To carry out internal/external modifications & provision of conservatory/also allow the extension to porch for wall but floor conservatory also to make it | 27/05/1996 |
| 96/117 | Granted (Conditional) | Derek Dunne | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | To construct an extension to an existing house comprising an add bedroom, bathroom facilities dining room kitchen & an airy area conversion of existing room & kitchen for use as two self-contained & bathroom & provide | 24/07/1995 |
| 96/118 | Granted (Conditional) | Anthony Crehan | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention of alterations to approach plans and new front porch and 2 new dormer windows at dwellinghouse | 24/07/1995 |
| 95/62 | Granted (Conditional) | William Byrne | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | The provision of three playing fields and a new single storey pavilion with efficient treatment plant and formation of a new site entrance and services | 13/04/1985 |
| 95/79 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick O'Brien | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | The erection of two storey residential farmhouse dwelling with garage septic tank, effluent treatment and provision area including site entrance | 19/01/1988 |
| 96/81 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick O'Brien | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | 2 dormer windows in existing roof | 19/04/1988 |
| 96/95 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick O'Brien | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | To install septic tank and build extension to cottage | 29/04/1996 |
| 95/245 | Granted (Conditional) | Paddy Kelly | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | Retention of existing extension to dwelling | 08/13/1984 |
| 94/59 | Granted (Conditional) | James Kelly | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | The erection of a 3 bed single storey dwelling with conservatory and domestic garage and to replace the existing septic tank water supply and entrance to site | 16/06/1984 |
| 94/58 | Ref. Ref. | David James | Verington | Dunboyne | To erect extension to existing dwelling | 17/05/1984 |
| 94/69 | Granted (Conditional) | Jack Waters | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | Revised permission area on adjacent site | 27/01/1995 |
| 94/199 | Granted (Conditional) | Ernest Brooker | Bayview Park | Dunboyne | To construct an extension and alterations to residence | 19/04/1995 |
| 94/239 | Granted (Conditional) | James Munro | Verington | Dunboyne | To demolish existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling and septic tank | 13/11/1993 |
| 97/64 | Granted (Conditional) | Gerard Kelly | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | Retention of an agricultural storage shed and lot | 24/01/1994 |
| 99/13 | Granted (Conditional) | James O'Brien | Haroldstown Little | Dunboyne | Change of use from domestic garage for assembly/dining units | 23/05/1995 |
| 99/57 | Granted (Conditional) | James O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | 2 bedroom extension to existing dwelling | 19/04/1995 |
| 99/58 | Granted (Conditional) | James O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Single storey rear extension to dwellinghouse incorporating conversion of garage to living accommodation erect new 2 storey garage utility & study | 13/03/1993 |
| 97/9 | Granted (Conditional) | James O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Removal of window in east facing side wall of extension to bungalow | 14/11/1993 |
| 98/71 | Granted (Conditional) | Michael Grubb | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | A garage adjacent to an existing dwelling | 30/11/1991 |
| 91/182 | Granted (Conditional) | James O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | A new two storey dwelling associated detached large car garage, covering of a new vehicular entrance to site and wastewater treatment system and polishing filter together with all associated site development works. Significant works | 15/09/2010 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | Niall Smyth | Summerhill Road | Dunboyne | The development will consist of a single storey extension new windows and doors to existing 10 front new windows and doors to side and rear internal alterations along with ancillary work | 26/10/2020 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | Uir Fagan | Buckhall Bay | Dunboyne | The extension of the site space to the rear side of the property to add extra bedrooms to the site area the installation of 6 daylight (4 ground and 2 upper) to the front of the property then to the rear of the property a 7m x 2m shed | 01/01/1990 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | David & Sonya Webb | Buckhall Bay | Dunboyne | The extension of the site space to the rear side of the property to add extra bedrooms to the site area the installation of 6 daylight (4 ground and 2 upper) to the front of the property then to the rear of the property a 7m x 2m shed | 01/01/1990 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | Ross Rabette | Verington | Dunboyne | Construction of extension to side of residence and upgrading of existing septic tank system to a fully compliant full system and polishing filter detached garage to be demolished to make way for extension extension to consist of gran | 01/01/2000 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | John Waters | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | The conversion of part of existing domestic garage to play school for children age 3 to 4 years old together with modifications to existing elevations and ancillary site works. The development will also include provision for parking area | 01/01/2000 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | John Waters | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | Demolition of existing detached dwelling and outbuild on site and the construction of two storey replacement dwelling with integral garage proprietary effluent treatment system upgrading of existing entrance and all ancillary site w | 17/12/2008 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | John Waters | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | Demolition of two storey dwelling proprietary effluent treatment system new entrance and all ancillary site works | 17/01/2008 |
| 94/108/24 | Granted (Conditional) | John Waters | Colinstown North | Dunboyne | A storey and a half dormer style dwelling house domestic garage outbuild full wastewater treatment system and provision of area for water harvesting existing agricultural entrance and existing entrance to adjacent dwelling to be rep | 31/03/2012 |

| Planning Ref | Outcome | Applicant | Address Line 1 | Address Line 2 | Development Description | Decision Date |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|---------------|
| DA79589 | Refused | Care Bradley | Warrington | Dunboyne | A development which will consist of replacement dwelling for existing dwelling being demolished and replaced with one and a half storey passive solar dwelling and domestic garage. The development also includes decommissioning of | 13/04/2008 |
| DA80052 | Granted (Conditional) | Robert Byrne & P. | Dunboyne | Dunboyne | Conversion of existing two storey bungalow house and the removal of existing septic tank and erection of new two storey bungalow house, detached domestic garage, septic tank, sewage treatment system, part driveway and | 15/05/2008 |
| DA72193 | Granted (Conditional) | Stephen Gaudin | Warrington | Dunboyne | A development which will consist of replacement dwelling for existing dwelling being demolished and replaced with one and a half storey dwelling and domestic garage. The development also includes decommissioning existing septic tank and installing proprietary | 21/08/2007 |
| DA80174 | Pending or Withdrawn | Ronan Gogan | Lynbrookstown | Dunboyne | The construction of a single two storey four bedroom house along with the widening of the entrance gates to the existing house and the demolition of existing farm sheds to provide an access route to the proposed new dwelling from | 05/07/2006 |
| DA60119 | Granted (Conditional) | Karen & Paul Bader | Warrington | Dunboyne | Which will consist of the demolition of the existing house, to build a new 4 bedroom bungalow house, with a proposed finished ridge height of approx. 7.745 metres the existing garage building is to be retained, the works will | 30/04/2007 |
| DA82111 | Pending or Withdrawn | Ronan Gogan | Lynbrookstown | Dunboyne | The construction of a two storey 4 bedroom house along with new entrance gates and driveway. The development works | 23/07/2005 |
| DA80138 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick O'Garra | Heathstown | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of a single storey, sitting room extension, to the gable end of dwelling house | 22/03/2008 |
| DA60004 | Pending or Withdrawn | Maria Cassidy | Newmarketbridge | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of a two storey dwelling with septic tank and waste water and effluent treatment system, garage, new domestic entrance, one public road, external bicycle parking, underground and all ancillary site | 02/03/2008 |
| DA60028 | Pending or Withdrawn | Christine O'Hara | Warrington | Dunboyne | (A) permission for extension of single storey dwelling (205.1 sqm) which was constructed in 1984 is larger than the dwelling which was granted permission for (198.9 sqm) ref no DA7044 and for (B) permission for extension of the same | 01/01/1998 |
| DA70241 | Granted (Conditional) | Timothy Lard | Sallycross | Dunboyne | Retention for revised site boundaries and extension of position of existing single storey house from that previously submitted under DA0086 and permission for the removal of existing septic tank off site and new proprietary waste water | 25/12/2005 |
| DA70242 | Pending or Withdrawn | Philip & Anita Case | Colonsland | Dunboyne | An extension to existing dwelling, excepting kitchen, living/dining room, sitting room, sitting room and master bedroom, upper alterations within existing dwelling at ground floor and 2 no. new bedrooms, on roof (2) and bathroom at | 05/01/2009 |
| DA70243 | Pending or Withdrawn | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of the following: extension of a four bed semi-detached family dwelling with domestic garage, stairs, daylighted, underground water tank, including provision of septic tank and percolation efficient for | 10/06/2005 |
| DA62138 | Granted (Conditional) | Patricia & John Con | The Maples | Dunboyne | Extension of development which consists of an extension to the rear of an existing bungalow dwelling with a kitchen, dining room and a living room. Conversion of the attic space in the existing dwelling for storage purposes and with | 11/10/2004 |
| DA61349 | Granted (Conditional) | Andrew Graham | Colonsland | Dunboyne | Extension of development which consists of an extension to the rear of an existing bungalow dwelling with a kitchen, dining room and a living room. Conversion of the attic space in the existing dwelling for storage purposes and with | 09/06/2004 |
| DA41097 | Pending or Withdrawn | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | A development which will consist of a four bed semi-detached family dwelling with domestic garage, including provision of septic tank and percolation efficient treatment system with percolation area and provision of site access | 24/02/2004 |
| DA60535 | Granted (Conditional) | William Thomas W | Dunboyne Industrial | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of extension of alterations and additions from that granted under planning permission DA70249 and completion of same, the retention of construction of sub-station and distribution poles, in | 27/06/2003 |
| DA70217 | Refused | Ross Raper | Warrington | Dunboyne | A development which will consist of extension of house entrance, domestic garage and percolation system for disposal of domestic waste | 26/11/2000 |
| DA70218 | Granted (Conditional) | Maureen White | 8 Garrett Ave | Dunboyne | A single storey extension and conversion of attic to bedroom at side and dormer roof front | 06/07/2003 |
| DA70219 | Granted (Conditional) | Philip & Anita Case | Colonsland North | Dunboyne | Development which will consist of extension of existing single storey domestic garage and single storey extension to rear of existing house and value windows to existing house | 24/09/2003 |
| RA70045 | Granted (Conditional) | Philip & Anita Case | Colonsland North | Dunboyne | Minor alterations to previously approved planning application DA70029 an extension of house for permission ref no DA70029 alterations to consist of partial demolition of existing dwelling, 1. minor elevation changes, 2. minor etc to | 24/09/2003 |
| RA70046 | Pending or Withdrawn | Philip & Anita Case | Colonsland North | Dunboyne | Minor alterations to previously approved planning application DA70029 an extension of house for permission ref no DA70029 alterations to consist of partial demolition of existing dwelling, 1. minor elevation changes, 2. minor etc to | 09/08/1998 |
| RA70026 | Granted (Conditional) | Aidan Walters | Colonsland North | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 01/07/2003 |
| RA70047 | Pending or Withdrawn | Emma Butler | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 01/07/2003 |
| RA70048 | Granted (Conditional) | Emma Butler | Colonsland | Dunboyne | A two storey style dwelling with a detached domestic garage, a packaged waste water treatment system and parking area, a new site entrance and all associated site works | 30/05/2004 |
| RA70164 | Pending or Withdrawn | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | A two storey style dwelling with a detached domestic garage, a packaged waste water treatment system and parking area, a new site entrance and all associated site works | 01/07/2003 |
| RA70175 | Refused | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 22/11/2003 |
| RA70190 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70191 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70192 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70193 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70194 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70195 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70196 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70197 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70198 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70199 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |
| RA70200 | Granted (Conditional) | Barry Barrett | Colonsland | Dunboyne | The removal of agricultural buildings and land to make way for the construction of 2 number detached storey and a half houses, each house to be served with individual septic tank and percolation area and paved and parking area, the development will also consist of | 24/07/2003 |

| Planning Ref | Decision | Applicant | Address Line1 | Address Line2 | Development Description | Decision Date |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
| DA120084 | Granted (Conditional) | Thomas Barrett | Sarny | Dunboyne | Construction of a sunroom extension to the rear of the house and all associated site works | 02/04/2012 |
| DA120095 | Granted (Conditional) | Philip & Anita Carr | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | Construction of a sunroom extension to the rear of the house and all associated site works | 12/06/2012 |
| DA161980 | Pending or Withdrawn | Ray & Gemma White | Barrow Park | Dunboyne | An extension to existing dwelling incorporating kitchen/dining/living main utility, toilet, sitting room and minor external layout alterations within existing dwelling at ground floor and 1st floor new bedrooms, en-suite (2) and bathroom (2) and half type dwelling, store | 01/01/1900 |
| DA170038 | Granted (Conditional) | Hugh Gogan | Lynaghstown | Dunboyne | 1) to demolish existing habitable bungalow and ancillary buildings 2) to decommission existing on site waste water treatment system and full planning permission is sought to construct replacement storey and half type dwelling, store | 23/01/2019 |
| DA170620 | Granted (Conditional) | Philip & Anita Carr | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | The development will consist of demolition of existing domestic entrance and construction of new entrance to existing dwelling at ground floor and 1st floor new bedrooms, en-suite (2) and bathroom (2) and half type dwelling, store | 14/03/2017 |
| DA180253 | Granted (Conditional) | Paul & Sarah McNamara | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Extension of duration of planning permission ref no DA11/028 - an extension to existing dwelling incorporating kitchen/dining/living room, utility, toilet, sitting room and minor external layout alterations within existing dwelling at ground floor and 1st floor new bedrooms, en-suite (2) and bathroom (2) and half type dwelling, store | 12/05/2016 |
| DA151621 | Pending or Withdrawn | Hugh Gogan | Lynaghstown | Dunboyne | The development will consist of new single storey entrance to service area | 01/01/1900 |
| DA150925 | Granted (Conditional) | Joe & Jennifer Ree | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | The development will consist of new single storey entrance to service area | 26/10/2015 |
| DA140887 | Granted (Conditional) | Laurence Fagan | Blackhall Bog | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 25/09/2014 |
| 97215 | Granted (Conditional) | Baron Carly | Lynaghstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 14/03/2010 |
| DA061371 | Granted (Conditional) | Ronan Gogan & R | Lynaghstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 23/04/1997 |
| 08020 | Pending or Withdrawn | Patricia Byrne | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 22/10/2009 |
| 08066 | Granted (Conditional) | Tom Butler | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 007429 | Granted (Conditional) | Joe & Jennifer Ree | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 14/12/2000 |
| DA100795 | Pending or Withdrawn | Robert Dunn & Fr | Dunboyne Td | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA100127 | Refused | Abbas Smith | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 27/06/2000 |
| DA060955 | Granted (Conditional) | Clare Bradley | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 14/12/2000 |
| DA091017 | Refused | Michael Quake | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA140446 | Granted (Conditional) | Dudley & Suzanne | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 18/06/2014 |
| 22734 | Granted (Conditional) | Patrick & Janet Han | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 12/05/2003 |
| 12066 | Refused | Grace O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 212108 | Refused | Calvin Hanlon | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 212117 | Refused | Grace O'Brien | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 211105 | Refused | Patrick & Janet Han | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 11151 | Granted (Conditional) | Billy Donnelly | Wexford | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA130863 | Refused | Dudley & Suzanne | Cushinstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 00232 | Granted (Conditional) | Jim Winters | Collesdale North | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA111118 | Granted (Conditional) | Paul & Sarah McNamara | Haroldstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA180953 | Refused | Brendan Gogan | Lynaghstown | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA161242 | Pending or Withdrawn | Ray & Gemma White | Barrow Park | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA150379 | Granted (Conditional) | Ray & Gemma White | Barrow Park | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA140248 | Granted (Conditional) | Tom Barrett | Sarny | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| 21391 | Granted (Conditional) | Clare Connors | Blackhall Bog | Dunboyne | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160636 | Refused | Luke Connor | Brookview Lodge | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160404 | Granted (Conditional) | Luke Connor | Brookview Lodge | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160540 | Granted (Conditional) | Luke Connor | Brookview Lodge | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160225 | Granted (Conditional) | Luke Connor | Brookview Lodge | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160647 | Granted (Conditional) | Stas Conroy | Blackwater | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160647 | Refused | James G. O'Leary | Haroldstown | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |
| DA160647 | Refused | James G. O'Leary | Haroldstown | Cushinstown | Retention of a double garage, store room and toilet | 01/01/1900 |

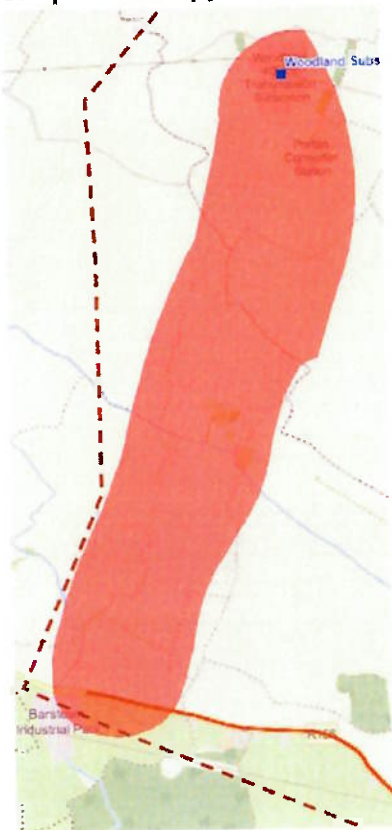
| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|------------|
| 981330 | Refused | James G. Hoare | Harlestown | Culmullen | A dormer dwelling, bioretic treatment plant, well and entrance | |
| 99147 | Granted (Conditional) | J. O'Sullivan | Harlestown | Culmullen | A dormer dwelling, bio cycle treatment plant, well & entrance at a new location under current planning ref no. 99147 | 11/12/1999 |
| 991162 | Granted (Conditional) | Mark O'Sullivan | Harlestown | Culmullen | A dormer dwelling, bio cycle treatment plant, well & entrance at a new location under current planning ref no. 991162 | 22/09/1999 |
| 0A00370 | Granted (Conditional) | James C. Hoare | Harlestown | Culmullen | Retention of existing house & an extension at the side of existing house B for conversion of existing structure to the side of building | 26/11/1999 |
| 0A12959 | Granted (Conditional) | Dunboyne Assoc | Dunboyne Rd | Cullinstown | Retention of conservatory to side of existing dwelling & also of the installation of a pukka treatment system instead of the system which was previously granted under planning ref 99574 | 31/07/2002 |
| 06305 | Pending or Withdrawn | Patrick Reynolds | Summerhill Road | Colinstown | Installation of 6 x 15 metre metal static columns with 24 x 100mm 200mm highlights, 4 on each column - the columns will be located around the perimeter fence at the main plot at Dunboyne A.S.C. | 25/06/2012 |
| DA78533 | Granted (Conditional) | Una Gorman | Summerhill Road | Colinstown North | Removal within site of approved stables, workshop, store and septic tank | 11/01/1990 |
| 010612 | Refused | Barry Reynolds | Summerhill Road | Colinstown North | The construction of a single storey extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 97178 | Granted (Conditional) | Leo & Rosemary O. | Summerhill Road | Colinstown North | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 8157 | Refused | Barry Reynolds | Summerhill Road | Colinstown North | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| RA110522 | Granted (Conditional) | John & Catherine S. | West Grove | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 81562 | Granted (Conditional) | Charles Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 8217040 | Pending or Withdrawn | John & Catherine S. | West Grove | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 21472 | Granted (Conditional) | James M. Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| DA18410 | Granted (Conditional) | Paul & Mary Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 0A18072 | Granted (Conditional) | Paul & Mary Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 89719 | Refused | Anthony Lyons | Cullinstown | Colinstown | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 0A801100 | Granted (Conditional) | Paula Mullen | Cullinstown | Colinstown | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| RA13213 | Granted (Conditional) | James M. Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 9569 | Granted (Conditional) | James M. Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| 001444 | Granted (Conditional) | James M. Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |
| DA18260 | Granted (Conditional) | James M. Hinde | Blackhall Manor | Blackhall Bog | Removal of 1st floor extension (1) 1st floor - sanitary accommodation to side dormer extension (1) 1st floor - 1st floor gallery, bedroom and sanitary accommodation to rear attic conversion to cooking with space (14) 1st floor - 1st floor | 24/06/2008 |

Snapshot of Applications along L1010 (within c.70m)



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Snapshot of Applications in area south/ including Woodland

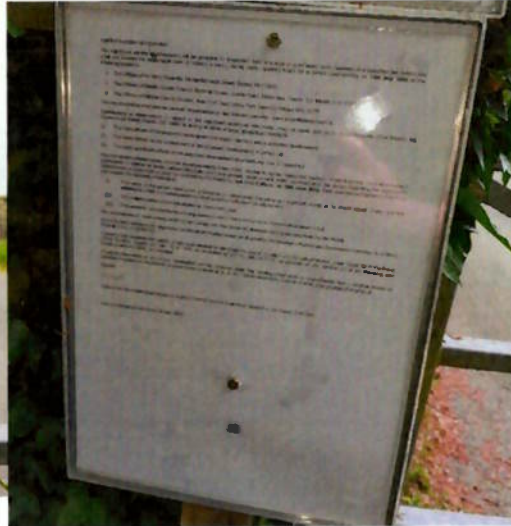




View of Entrance/Access to Woodland (Site Notice relates to Significant FI - Kildare Meath 400kV Project)



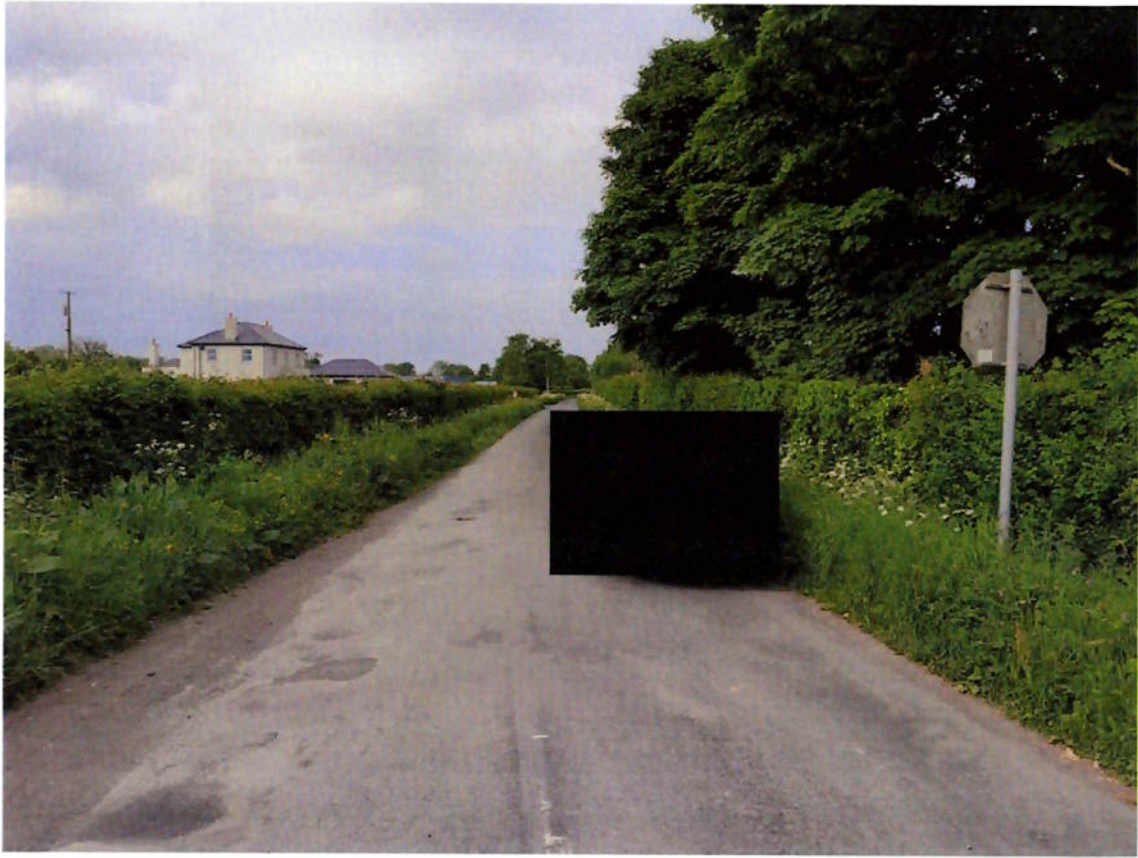
View from Woodland Entrance Gate of access road



Site Notice at Entrance Gate to Woodland - relates to Significant FI - Kildare Meath 400kV Project



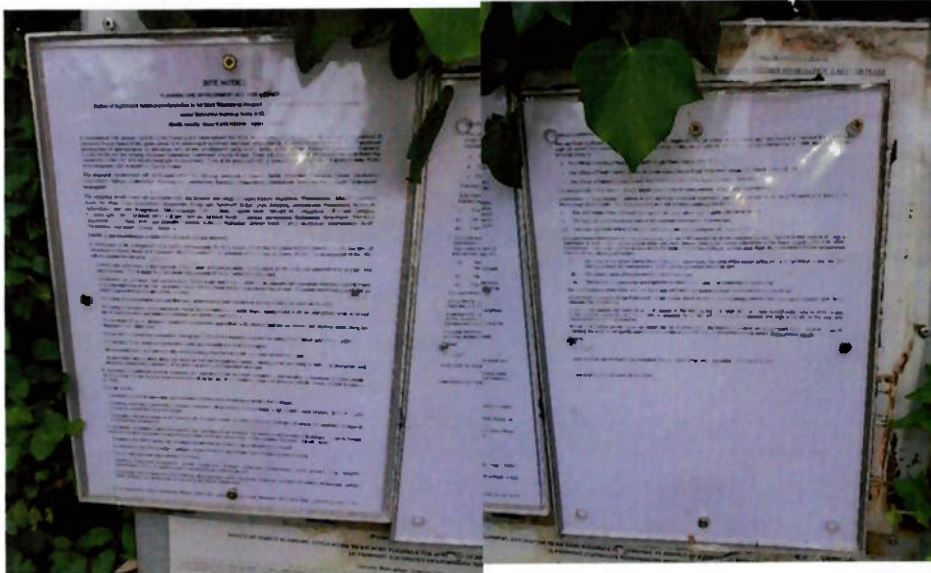
View from Red Bog Road/ R-156 Junction eastward along R-156



View from Red Bog Road/ R-156 Junction northward of Red Bog Road L-6207-16



View from Red Bog Road L-6207-16/ R-156 Junction westward of R-156



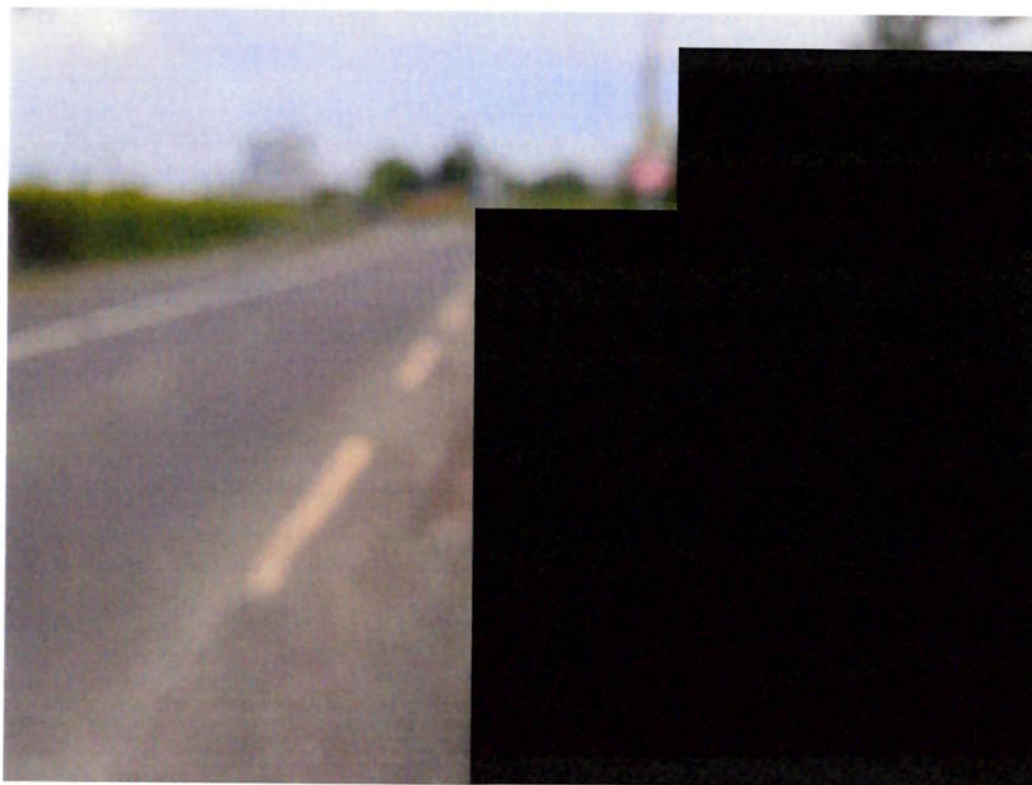
Site Notice at Red Bog Road L-6207-16 - relates to Significant FI - Kildare Meath 400kV Project



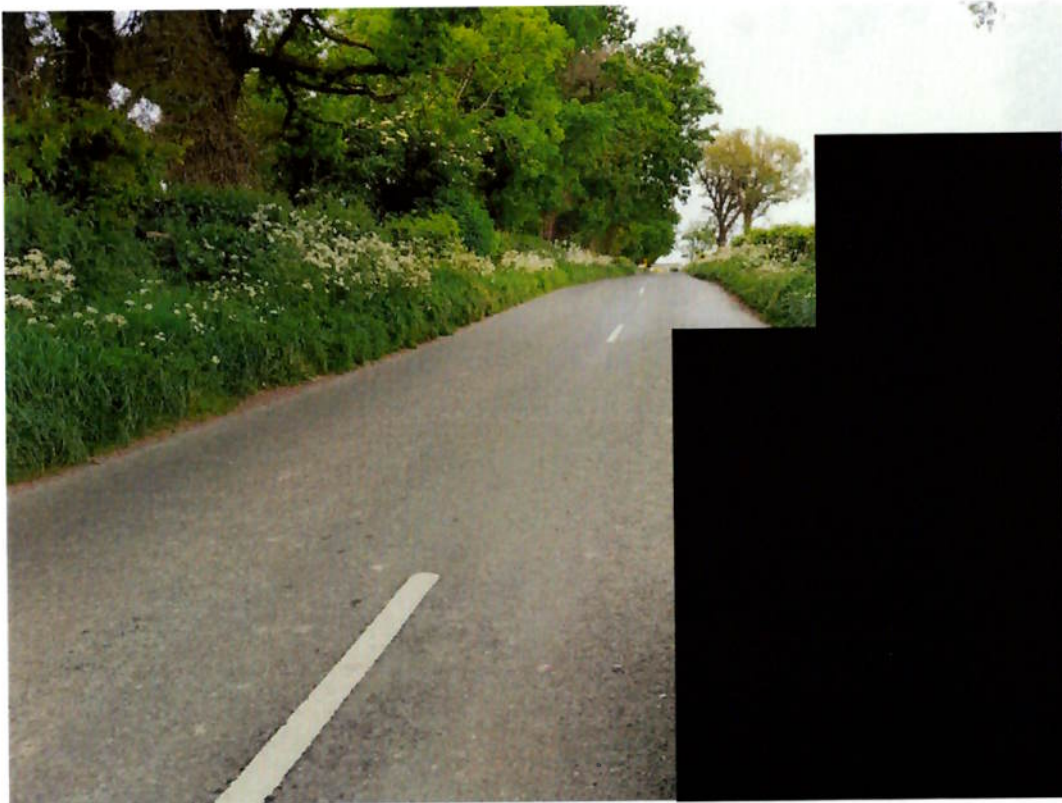
View of L-5026 (eastward) at Piercetown opposite Kilsaran Entrance



View of L-5026 (westward) at Piercetown opposite Kilsaran Entrance



View to the east of R-156 with R-157/ R-156 roundabout in the background



View of roadway L-1008-4 immediately west of Kilbride in an eastern direction



View of roadway L-1008-4 immediately west of Kilbride in a western direction



View to the north-west and south-east from junction of Kilbride Road L-1007-4 and L-1008-4

Woodland Substation Co Meath ITM 694825, 748065 to Belcamp Substation Co Dublin ITM 719517, 741542

37.63 km

Cultural Heritage Review

Niall Roycroft

22nd April 2024

SUMMARY

Approximately 20.5km of the proposed underground cable route will be located in County Meath and approximately 17km of the proposed underground cable route will be located in Fingal, County Dublin. Approximately 70% of the proposed underground cable route will be located within public roads and approximately 30% will be located in private lands, to avoid location-specific constraints.

A rough assessment of the green field impact is calculated to be around 47.05 hectares in this document – but this land total is not mentioned in the EIAR (that I could find).

The EIAR states that the Project Team has met with the National Monuments Service:

A meeting was held with the NMS on 13 December 2023 to discuss the Proposed Development. The NMS advised on the archaeological potential of watercourses and suggested mitigation measures. Following a discussion with the NMS, the mitigation measures that are outlined in Section 13.5 of this Chapter were agreed.

Section 13.5.1 and the Non-Technical Summary present a comprehensive mitigation strategy.

The general proposal is to complete archaeological geophysical survey – which is best completed in 30m wide strips, so the survey may stray outside the proposed LMA in some places – over the c.47 ha green field element. Note: generally, the surveys will not be within 5-10m of metal field boundaries.

The level / intensity of follow-up testing is not given. In general, a high level of test trenching following archaeological geophysical survey will lead to a no monitoring requirement during construction. It is recommended that the testing is to a level of 10%-12% of the green field area and then, if nothing is found in various areas, these areas go forward to construction without monitoring.

A limited number of in-road areas are proposed for construction phase monitoring in Section 13.5.2.

The route has clearly been well-walked and researched, even though photographs and historical mapping of archaeological, architectural and Cultural Heritage features are generally absent.

RECOMMENDATION

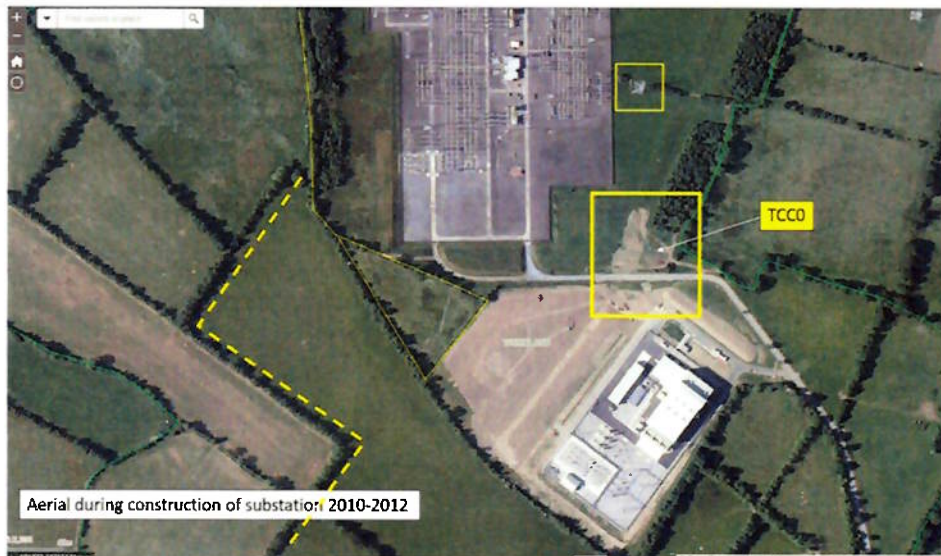
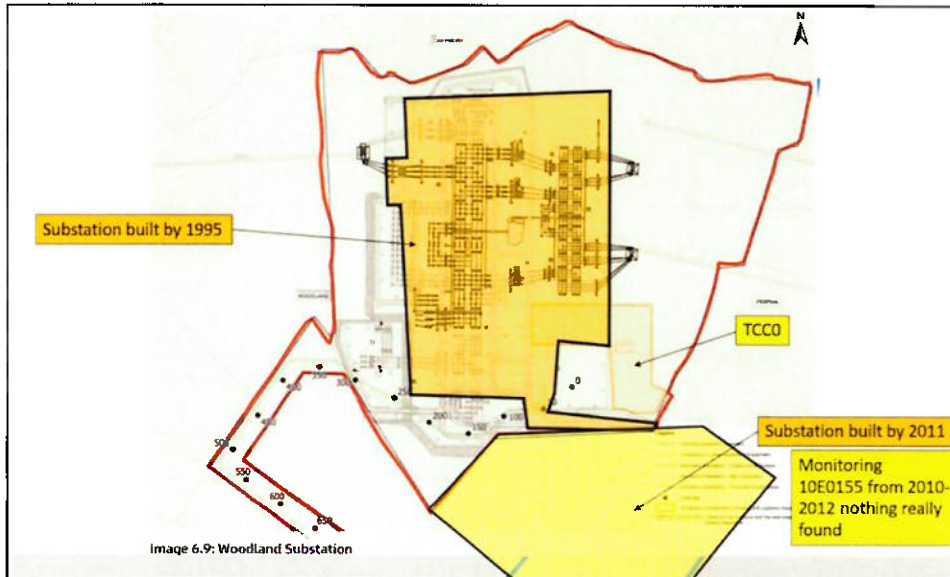
The EIAR is well prepared and presented. Perhaps it would be helpful to clarify the level of test trenching proposed. It would appear that no 'general' construction phase monitoring is being proposed, and this is fine as long as the level of pre-construction test trenching is to a high level.

REVIEW: SUMMARY BY CHAINAGE

| Chainage From | Chainage To | Impact (hectares) Approx. |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 | 350 | 3 |
| 350 | 3600 | 10 |
| 3600 | 10750 | 1 |
| 10750 | 12700 | 0 |
| 12700 | 13550 | 0.6 |
| 13550 | 16000 | 0 |
| 16000 | 16450 | 1 |
| 16450 | 18150 | 0 |
| 18150 | 18250 | 1 |
| 18250 | 19150 | 0 |
| 19150 | 19350 | 0.6 |
| 19350 | 20450 | 0 |
| 20450 | 20600 | 0.45 |
| 20600 | 21250 | 0 |
| 21250 | 22600 | 4.5 |
| 22600 | 23250 | 0 |
| 23250 | 23825 | 0.4 |
| 23825 | 26125 | 0 |
| 26125 | 26275 | 0.3 |
| 26275 | 27000 | 1 |
| 27000 | 28300 | 0 |
| 28300 | 28650 | 0 |
| 28650 | 29100 | 1.65 |
| 29100 | 33200 | 0 |
| 33200 | 34050 | 0 |
| 34050 | 35450 | 6.8 |
| 35450 | 36550 | 3.3 |
| 36550 | 37633 | 11.45 |
| | | |
| | total impact | 47.05 hectares |

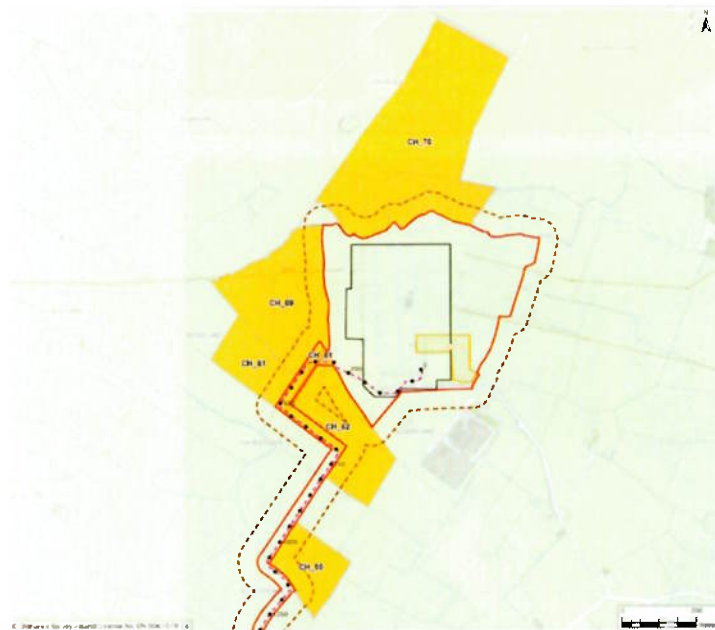
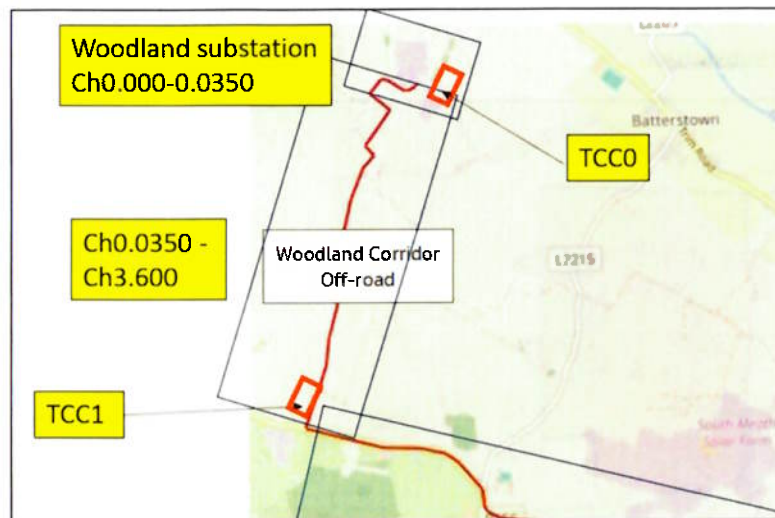
The following is a review of the Cultural Heritage Chapter to confirm the contents given the absent mapping and walkover photographs. No additional significant detail has emerged.

Ch0.0000 – Ch0.0350: Woodland Substation:



Main Substation built by 1995. Adjacent substation built 2010-2012 which was monitored without any significant results. Proposed area is around 3 hectares?

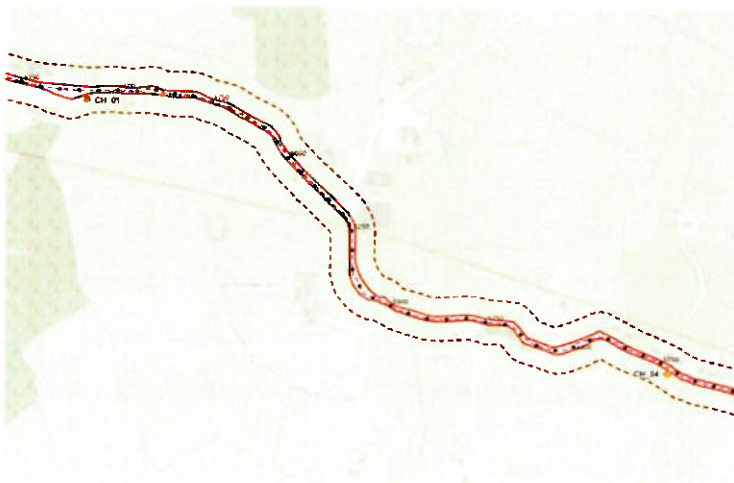
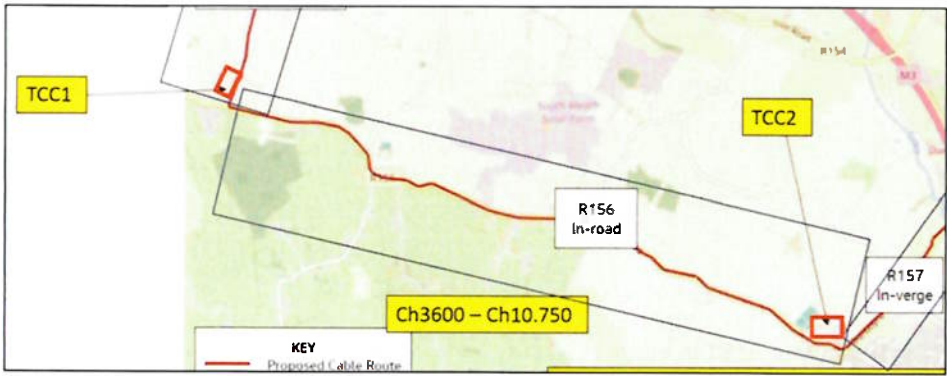
Ch0.0350 - Ch3.600: Woodland corridor offline



Green field 3,250m x LMA not specified but around 30m. Approx. 10 hectares including TTC1. Several CH anomalies.



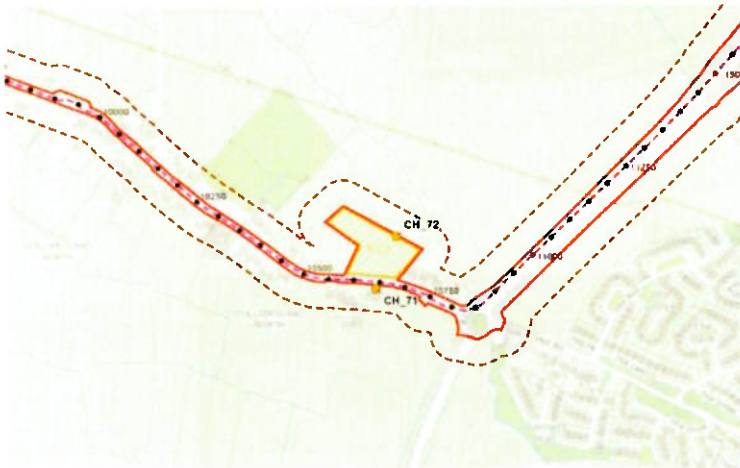
Ch3600 – Ch10.750: R156 In-road plus TCC2



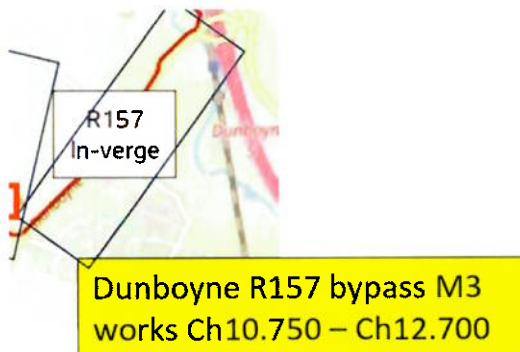
Several CH adjacent to route.



TCC2 is around 1 hectare. Showing drainage above and noted CH below.

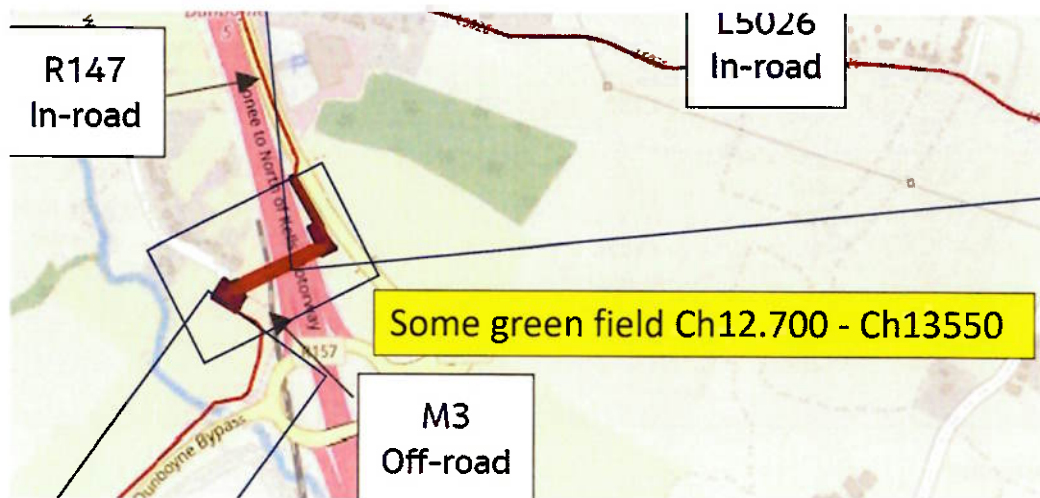


Ch10.750 – Ch12.700: Dunboyne R157 in-verge

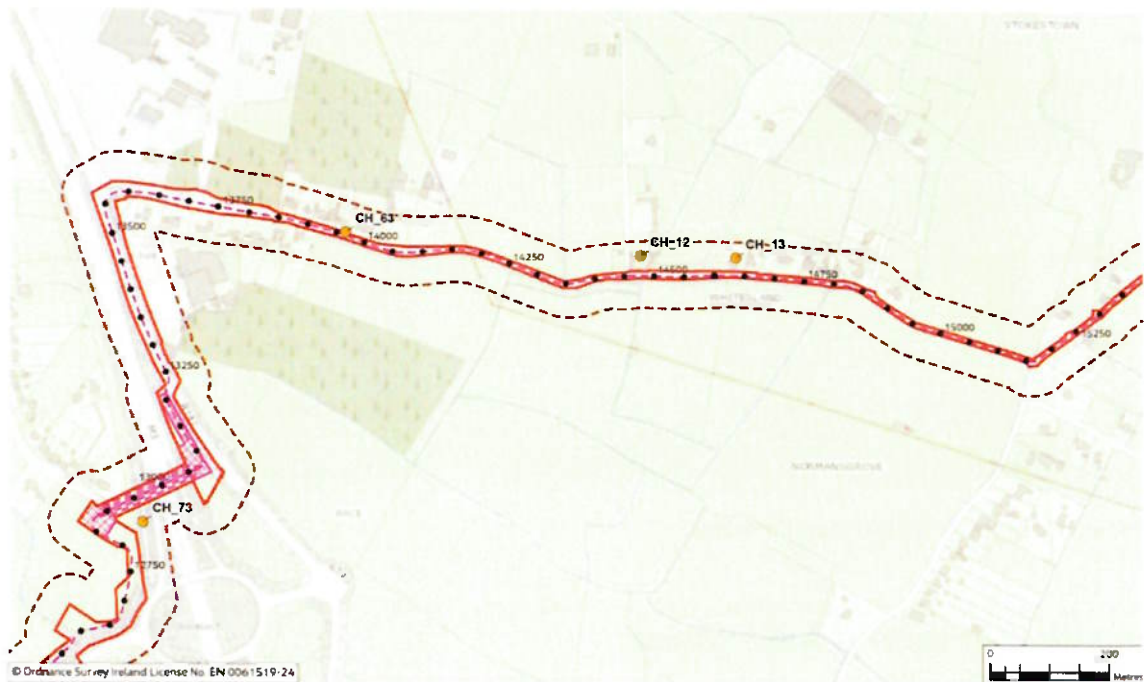


This section of the R157 was constructed as part of the M3 project. The Eirgrid cable is within the R157 LMA.

Ch12.700 - Ch13.550: M3 crossing.

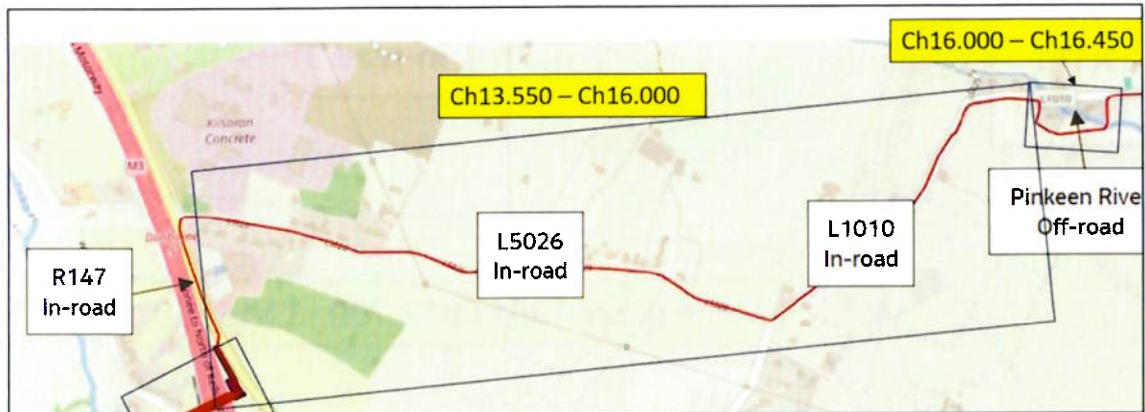


Some green field: perhaps 0.6 ha combined on both sides of M3

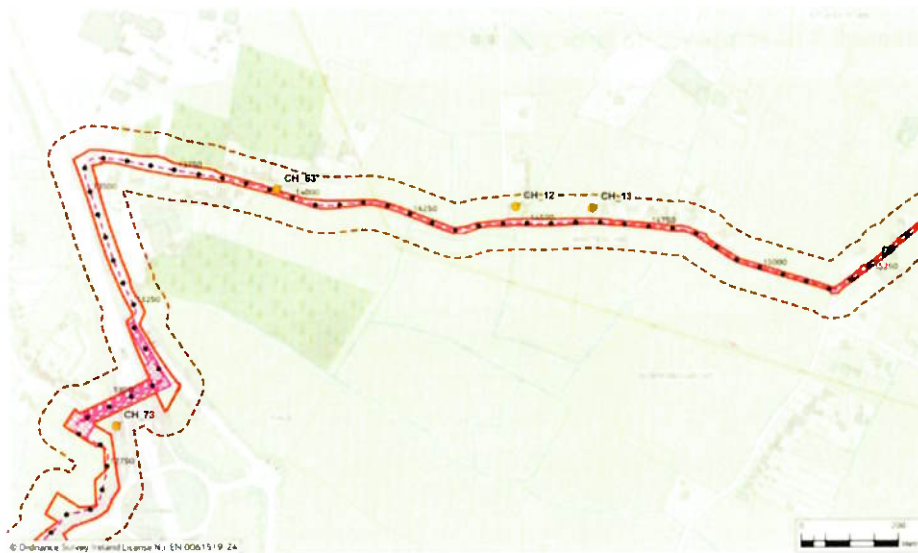


CH Railway.

Ch13.550 – Ch16.000: L5026 – L1010 In-road

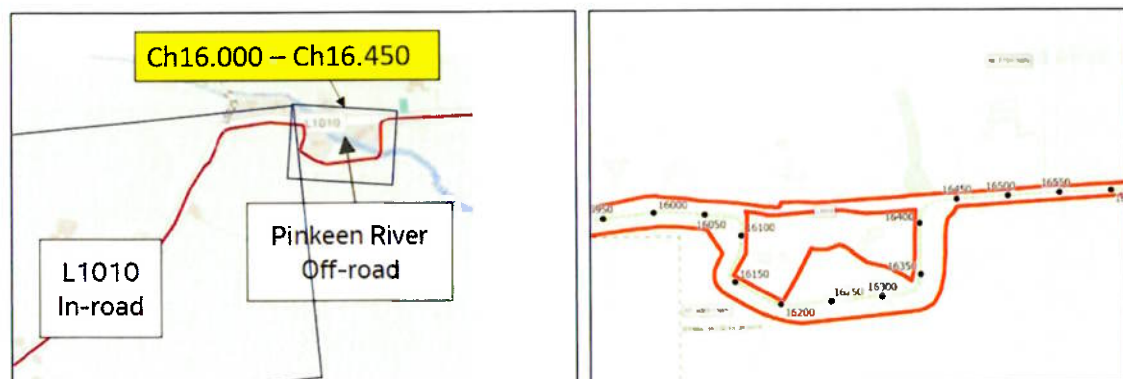


Minimal potential

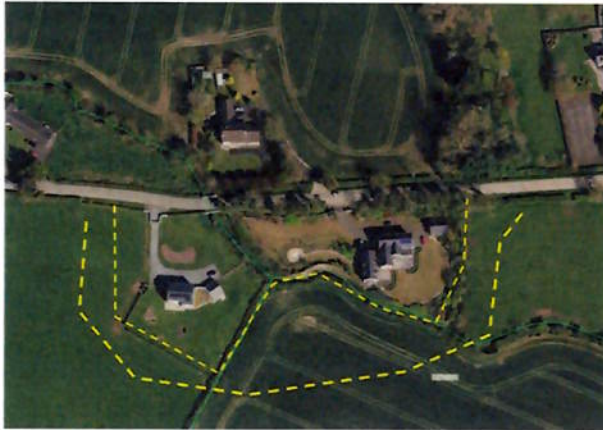


Some adjacent CH. Architectural remains.

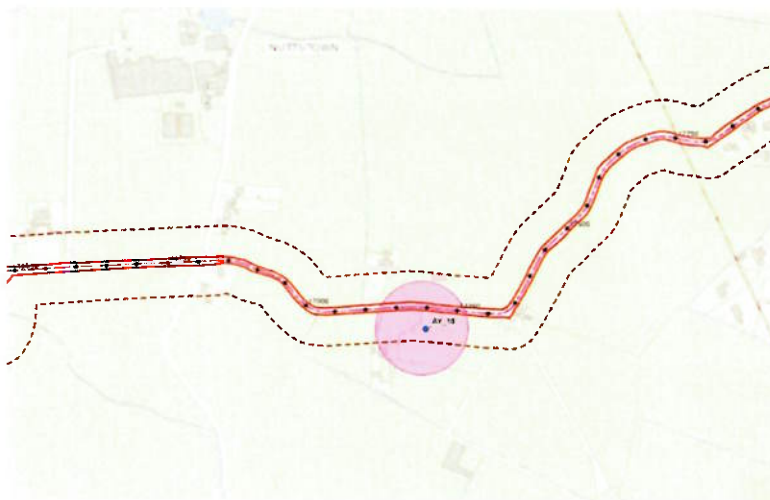
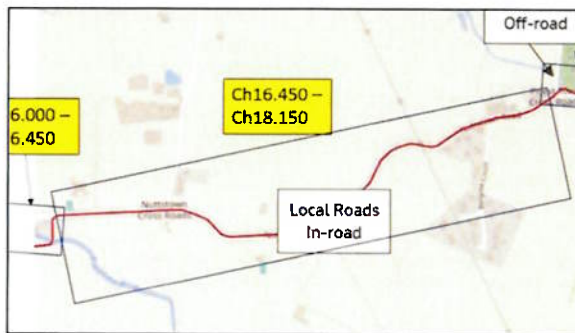
Ch16.000 – Ch16.450: Pinkeen River Off-Road



Around 1 hectare in and around the River.

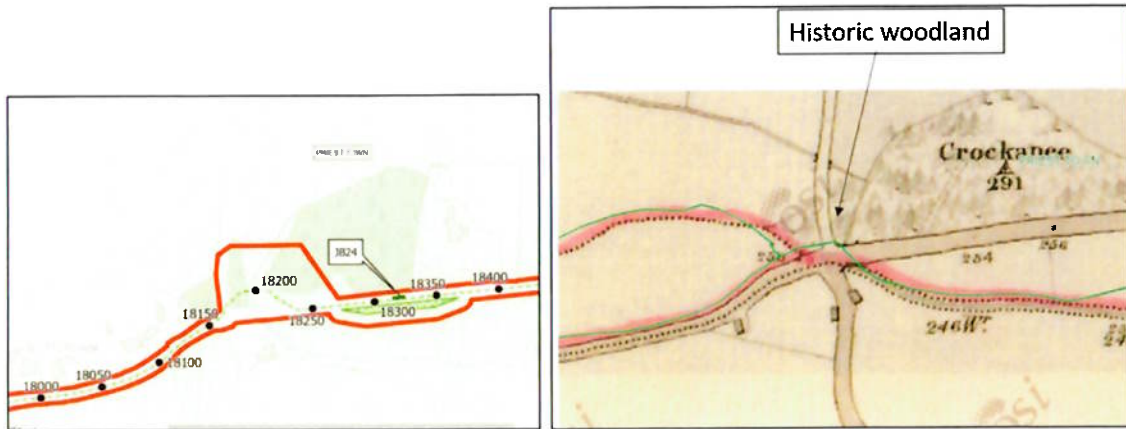


Ch16.450 – Ch18.150: Local Roads in-road

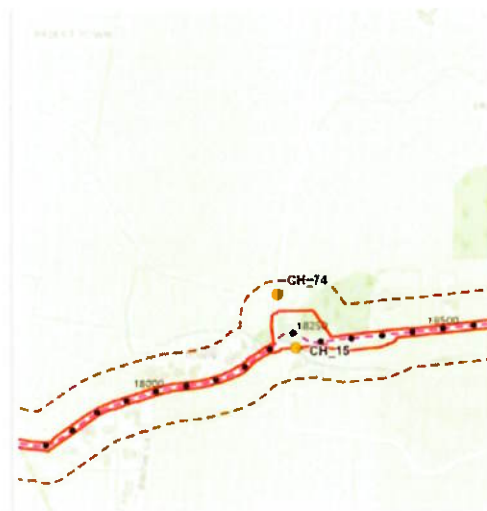


Minimal potential. Vicinity of AY18.ME054-002: cropmark.

Ch18.150 – Ch18.250: Ward River Off-Road

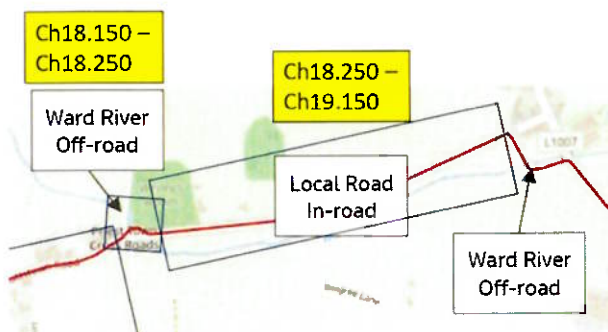


Historic woodland may have been felled and replaced as plantation over time. Maybe around 1 hectare of impact including adjacent off-road section. Probably an old channel – but also probably dredged. Check dredging deposits on riverbank?



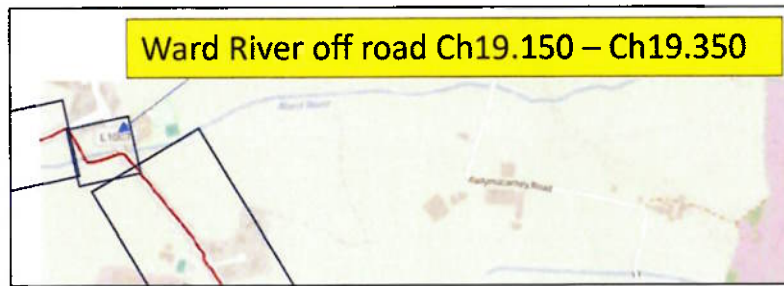
Noted CH.

Ch18.250 – Ch19.150: Local roads in-road



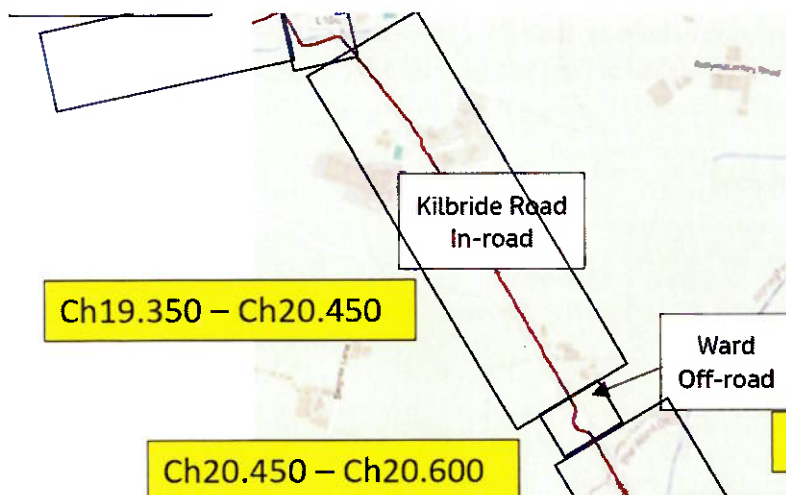
Minimal potential

Ch19.150 – Ch19.350: Ward River off road



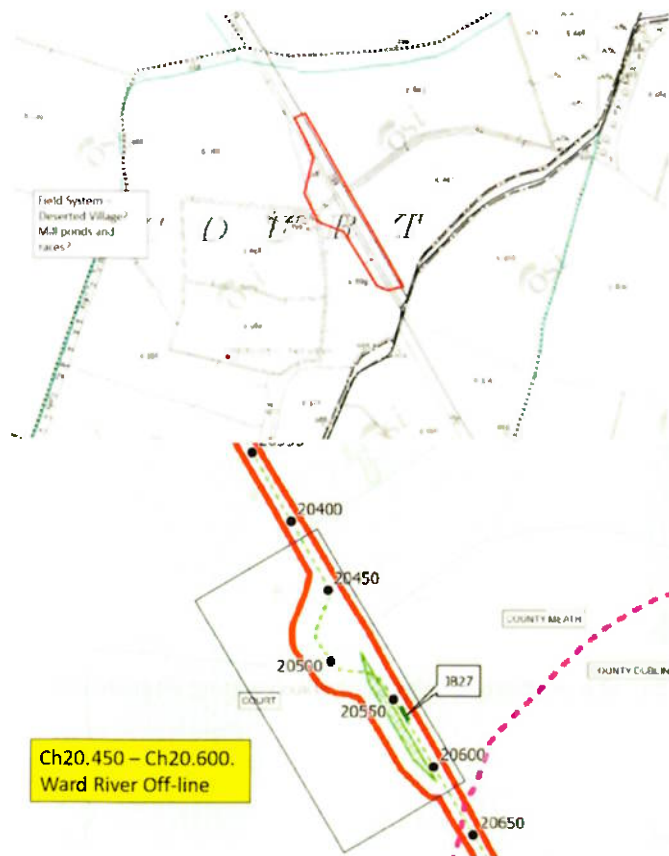
Approx 0.60 ha. Probably an old channel – but also probably dredged. Check dredging deposits on riverbank.

Ch19.350 – Ch20.450: Kilbride Road in-road



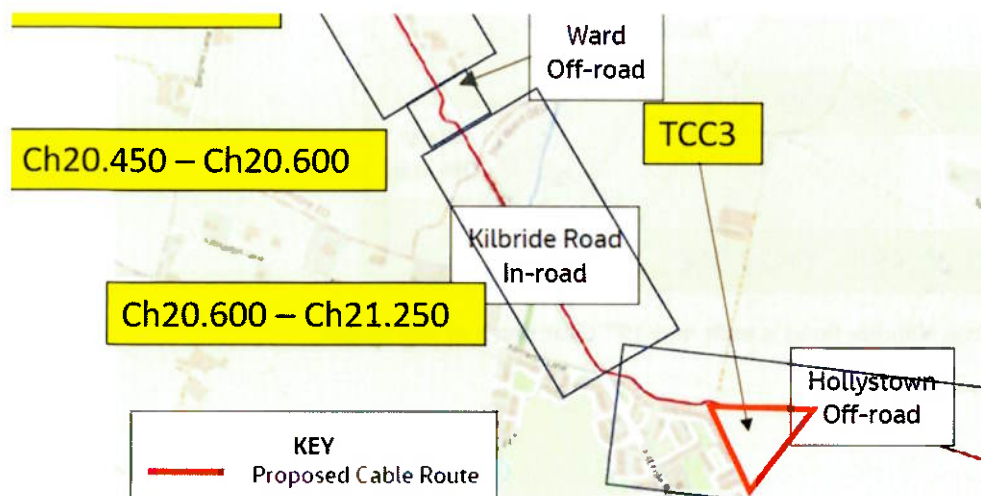
Minimal potential. Kilbride Road is built mid-19th C for much of this length.

Ch20.450 – Ch20.600. Ward River Off-line



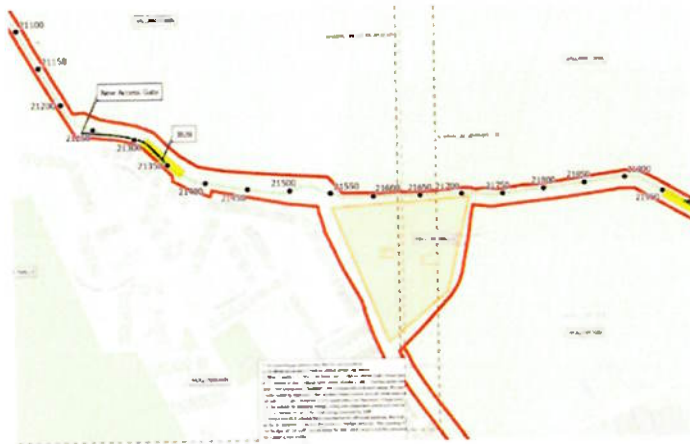
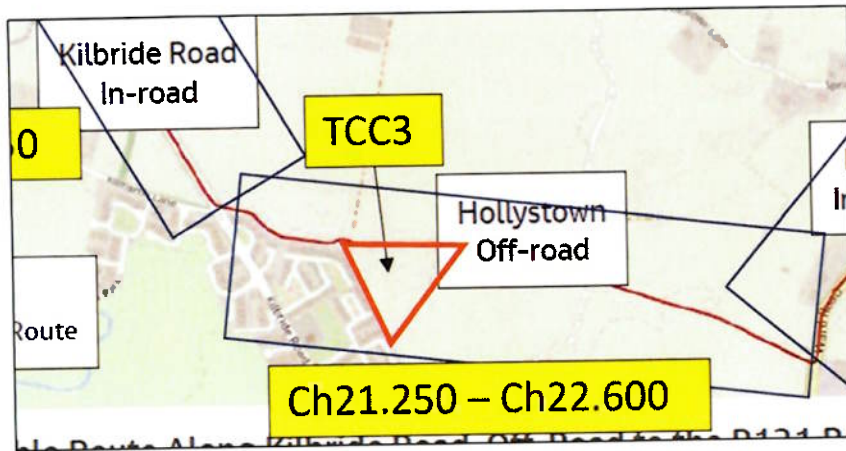
Maybe around 0.45 ha. River appears canalised on 1837 OS + 25-inch and Kilbride Road is mid-19th C. RMP Field system may be a deserted Medieval or later village and/ or mill complex.

Ch20.600 – Ch21.250 : Kilbride In-road

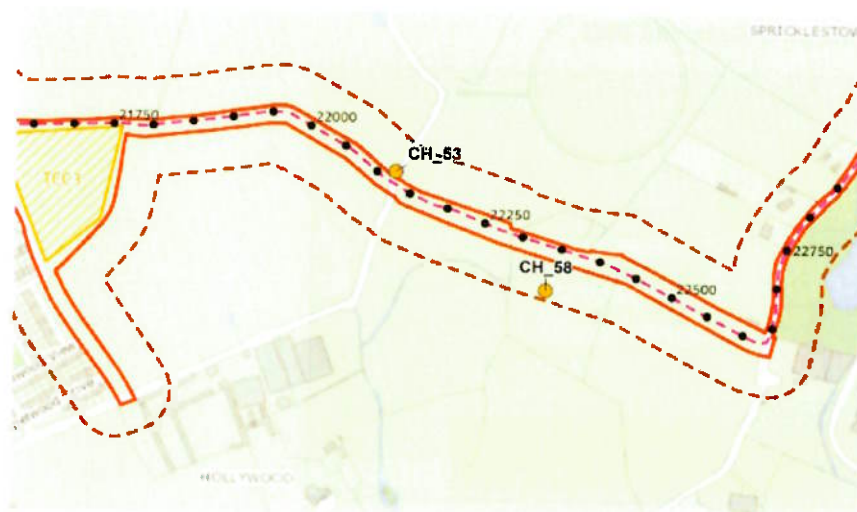


Minimal potential.

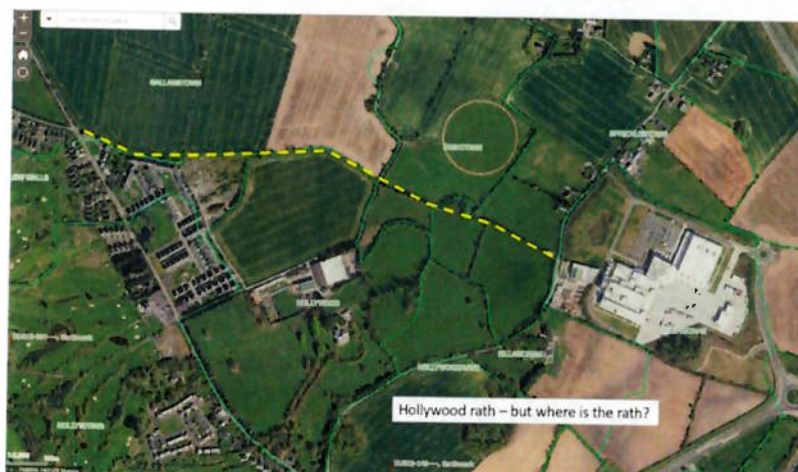
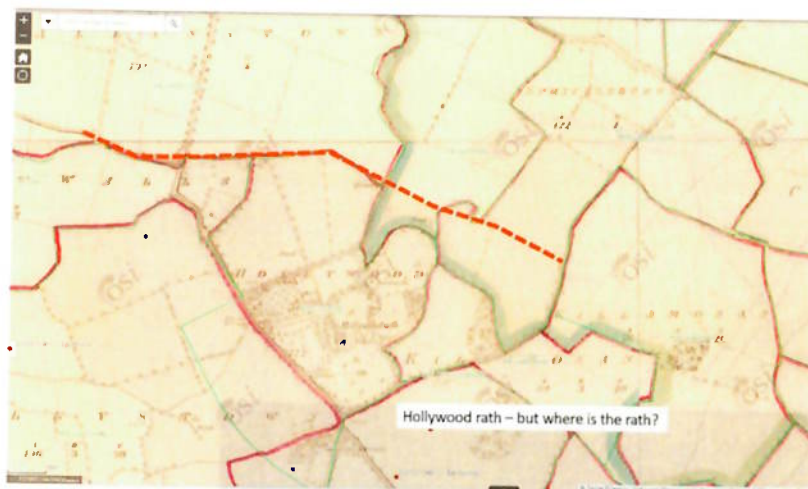
Ch21.250 – Ch22.600 Hollystown Off-line and TCC3



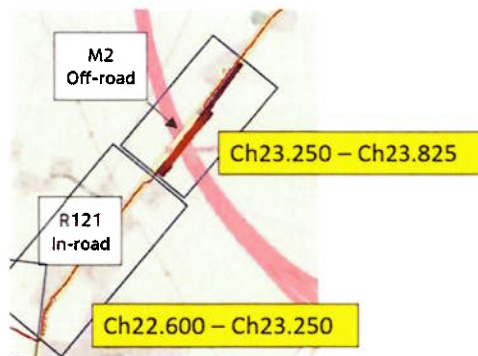
TCC3 is a compound and storage area from previous construction works. Minimal potential. The remaining 1,350m x 30m is around 4.5 hectares. Nearby is Hollywoodrath demesne. This presumably references a lost ringfort-rath. It is perhaps one of the nearby curving field boundaries. Outside LMA presumably.



Noted CH. Adjacent.



Ch22.600 – Ch23.250: R121 In-road



Minimal potential

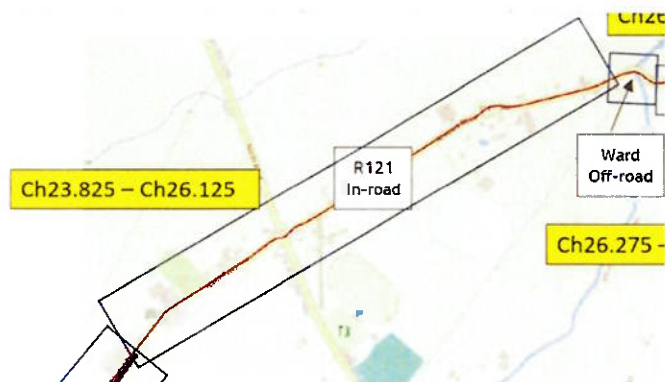
Ch23.250 – Ch23.825: M2 Off-road tunnelling

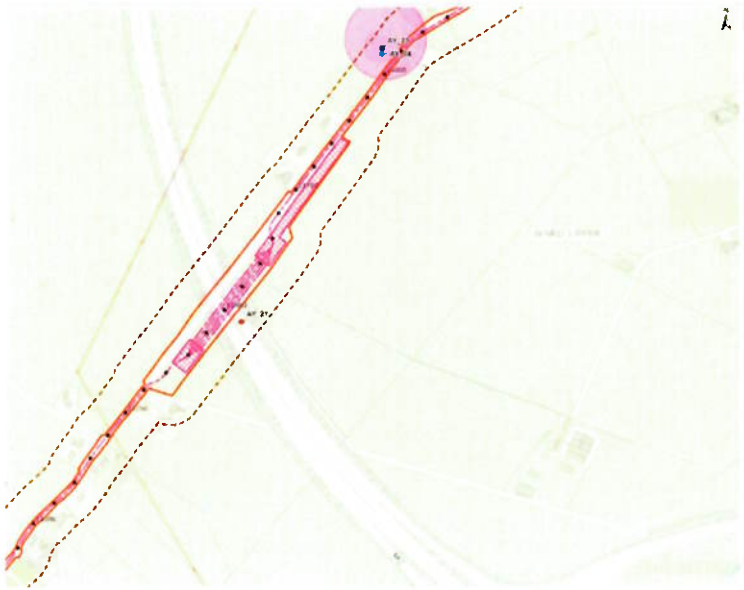


Nearby DU011-091---- : Habitation site : WARD UPPER. Small site.

Southern side seems to be part of an old soil storage heap. N side around 200m x 20m or so = 0.40 ha.

Ch23.825 – Ch26.125: R121 In-road





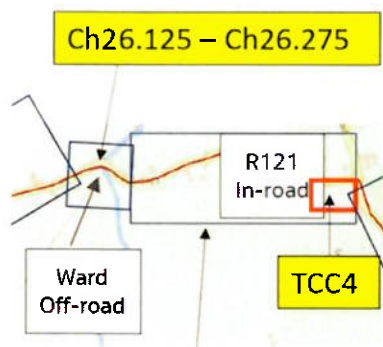
Ch24.000 Vicinity of Church and Graveyard DU011-039. Also AH-06.

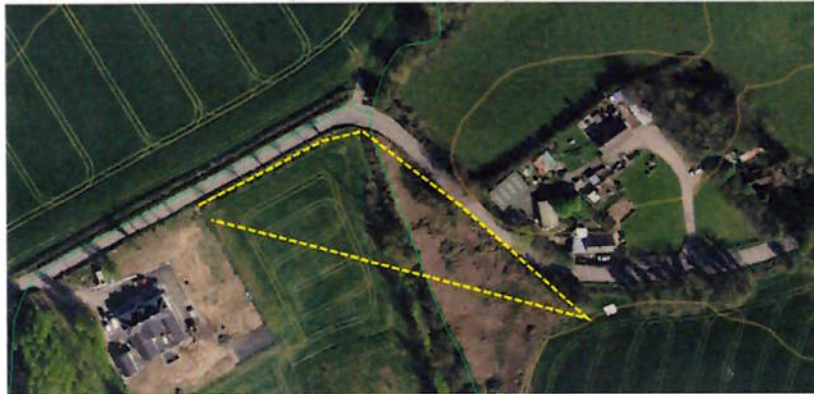




Noted CH.

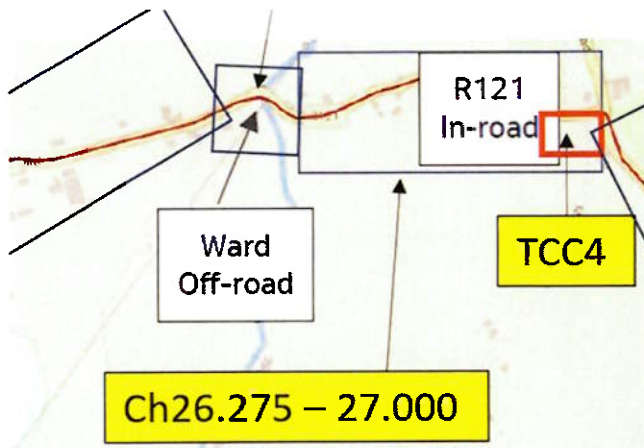
Ch26.125 – Ch26.275 Ward Off-Road





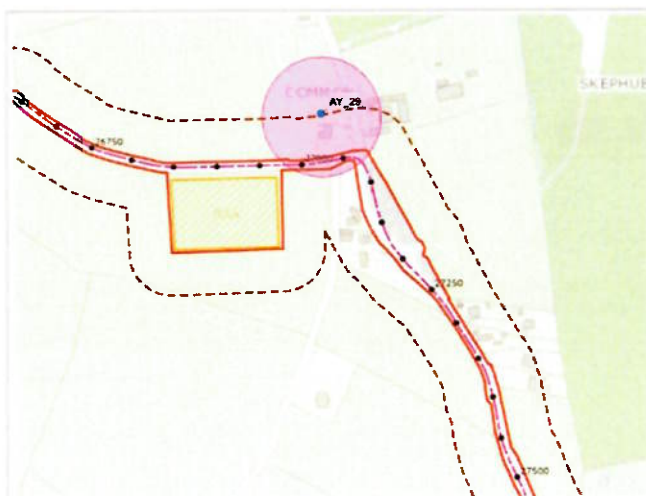
Around 0.3 ha with works on E side of River appears to be soil infilled.

Ch26.2755 – Ch27.000: R121 In-road



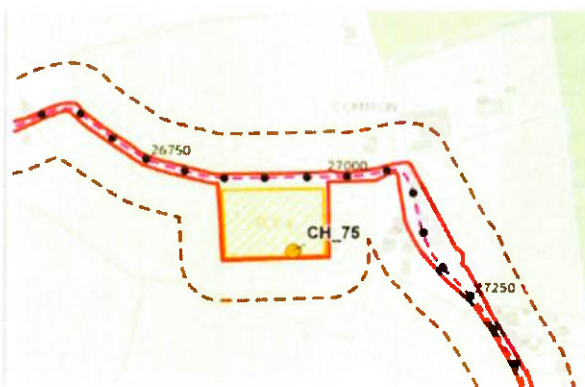
Minimal impact. Vicinity of DU011-156 Cropmark of a ringfort 30m diameter. No impact.

TCC4 is approx. 1 hectare opposite DU011-156 Cropmark.

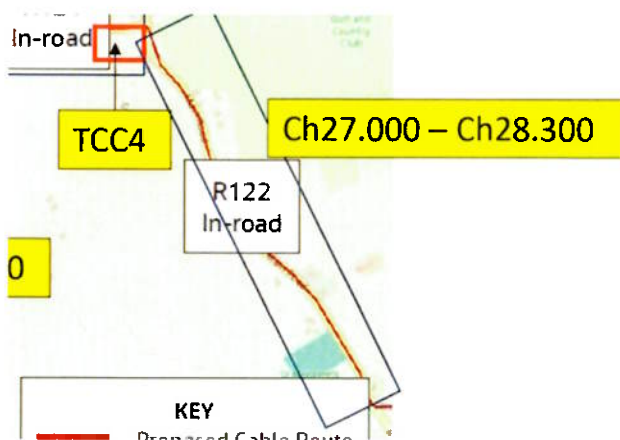




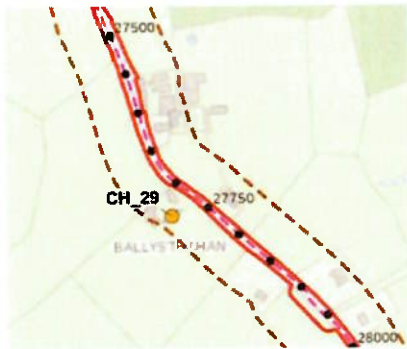
Vicinity of DU011-023 oval ringfort with a graveyard.



Ch27.000 – Ch28.300: R122 In road

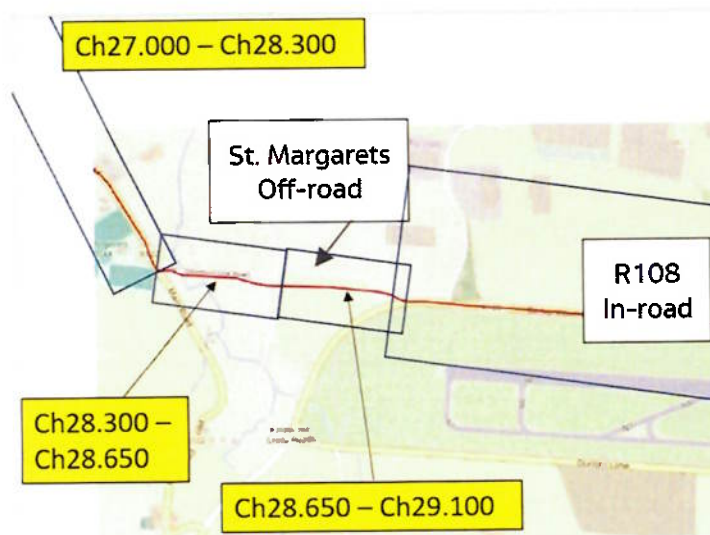


Minimal impact.



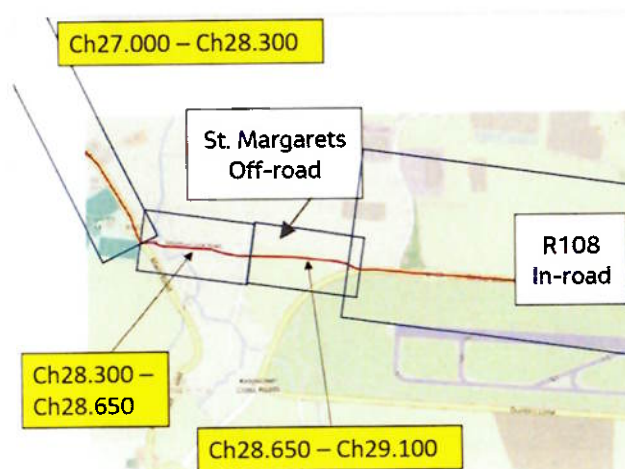
Noted CH

Ch28.300 – Ch28.650: Kilreesk Lane in-Road



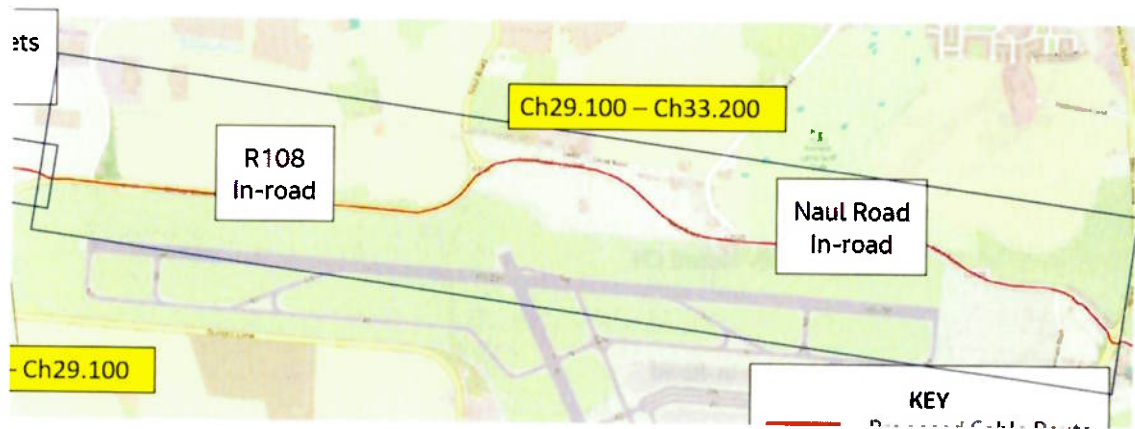
Minimal impact.

Ch28.650 – Ch29.100 St Margarets Off-Road



Around 450m x 30m. Approx. 1.65 ha of greenfield impact. Airport road R108 built 1990s.

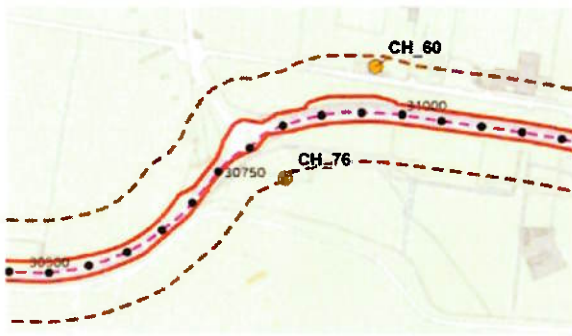
Ch29.100 – Ch33.200 R108 and Naul Road in-road



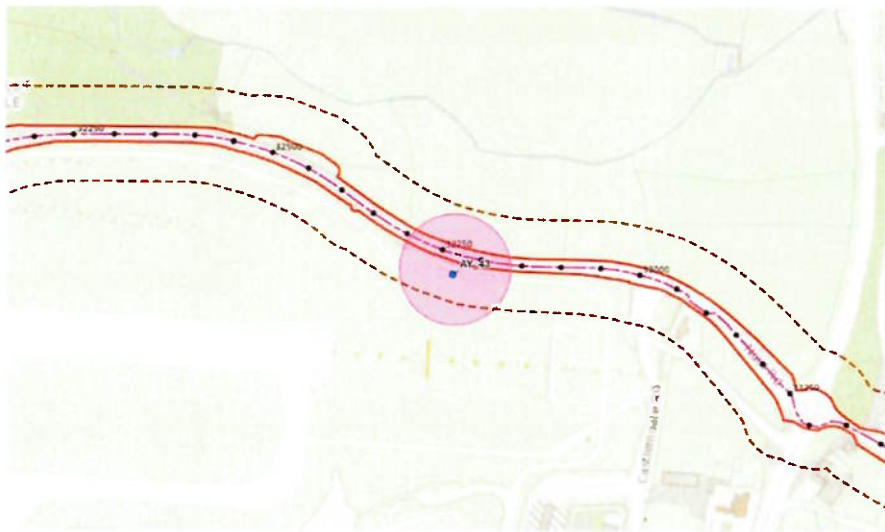
Minimal impact.



Vicinity of DU011-043 Ringfort.

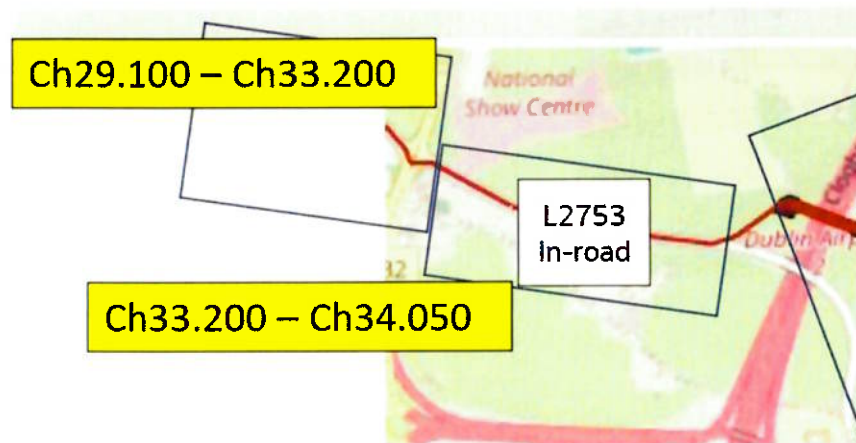


Some adjacent CH.



Vicinity of DU011-046.

Ch33.200 – Ch34.050: L2753 In-road

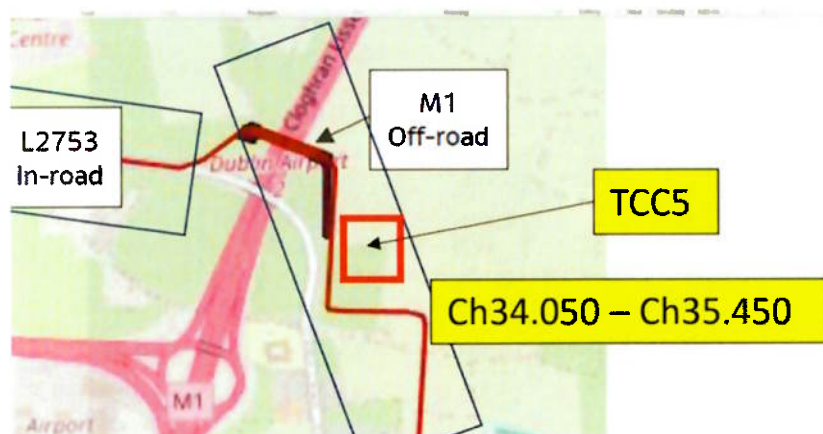


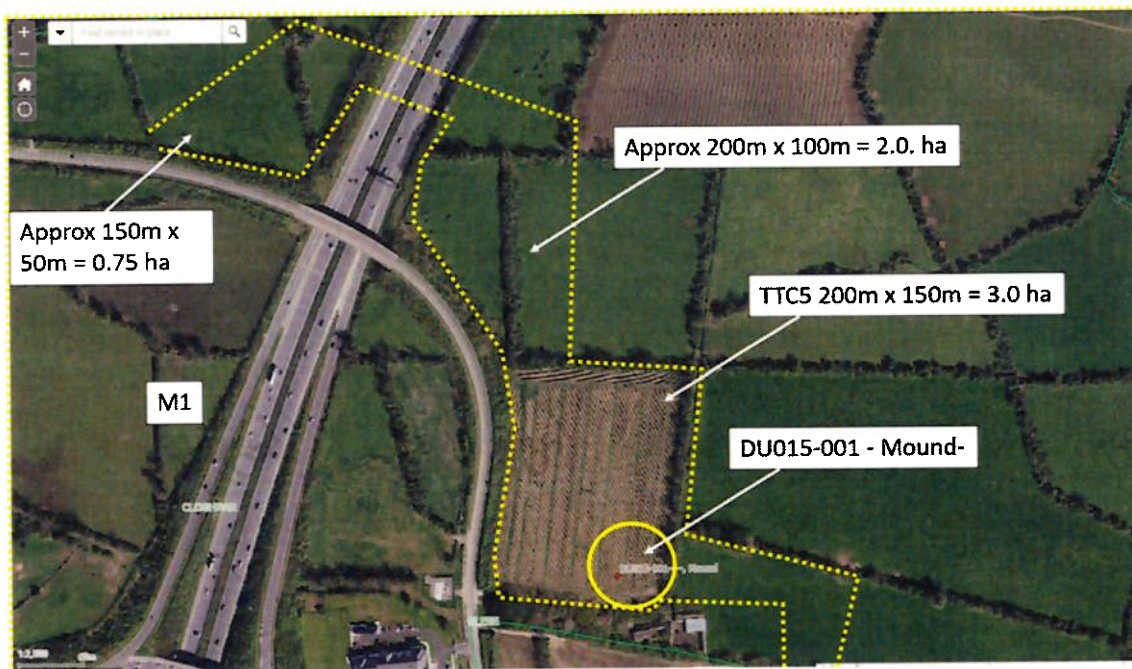
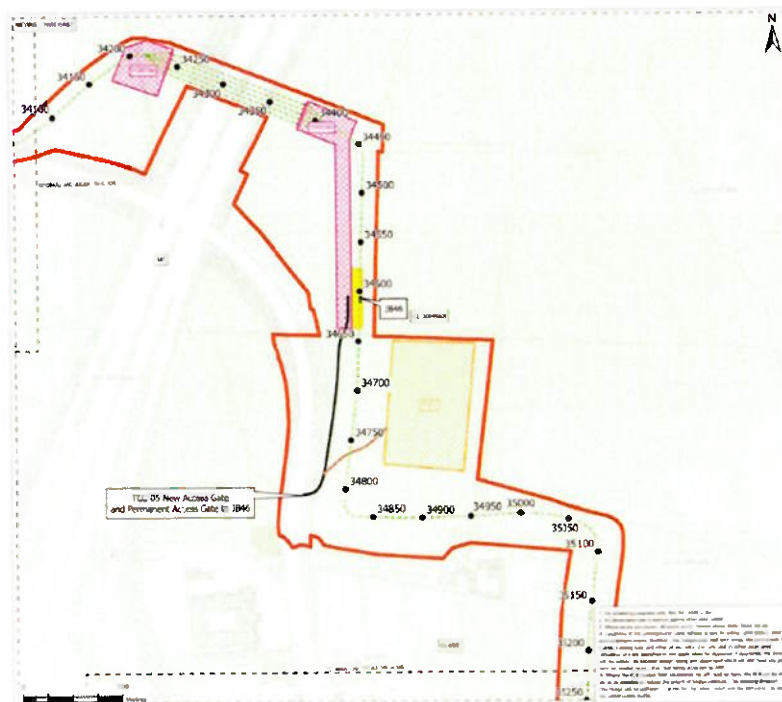
Minimal impact.



AH_10 = Well

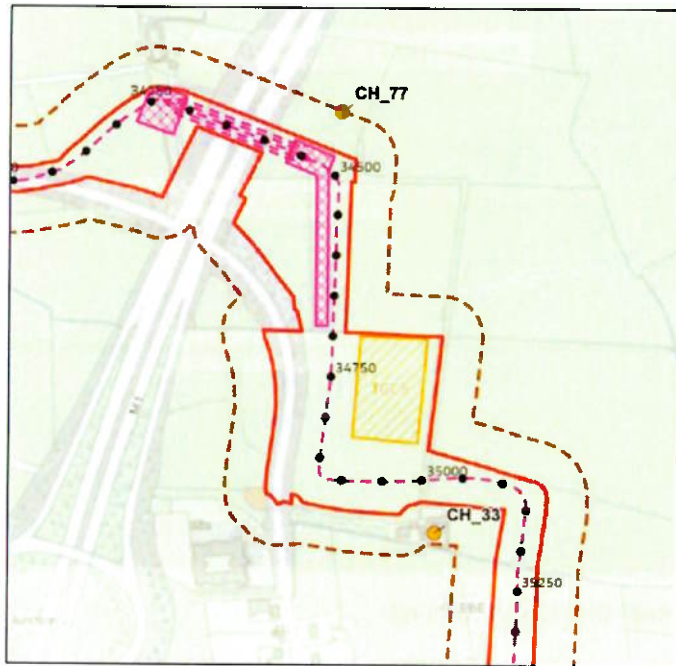
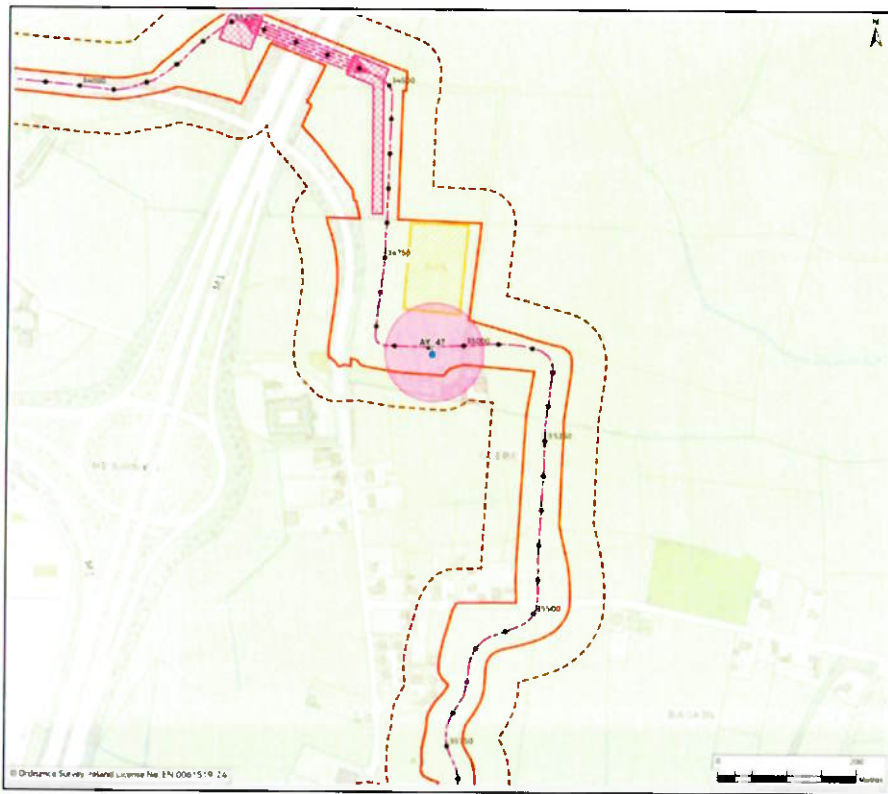
Ch34.050 – Ch35.450 M1 Off-Road and TCC5.



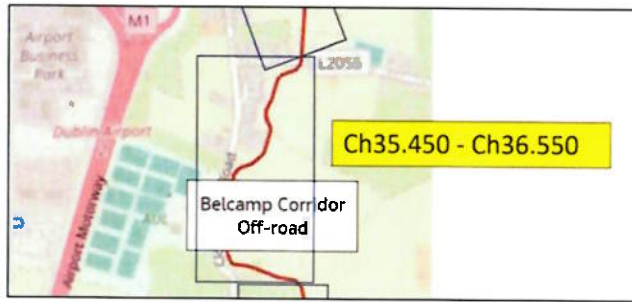


Northern end is around 5.75 ha including RMP DU015-001: Mound.

Plus Ch35.100 - Ch35.450 = 350m or so x 30m wide is around 1.05ha. Total around 6.8 ha.



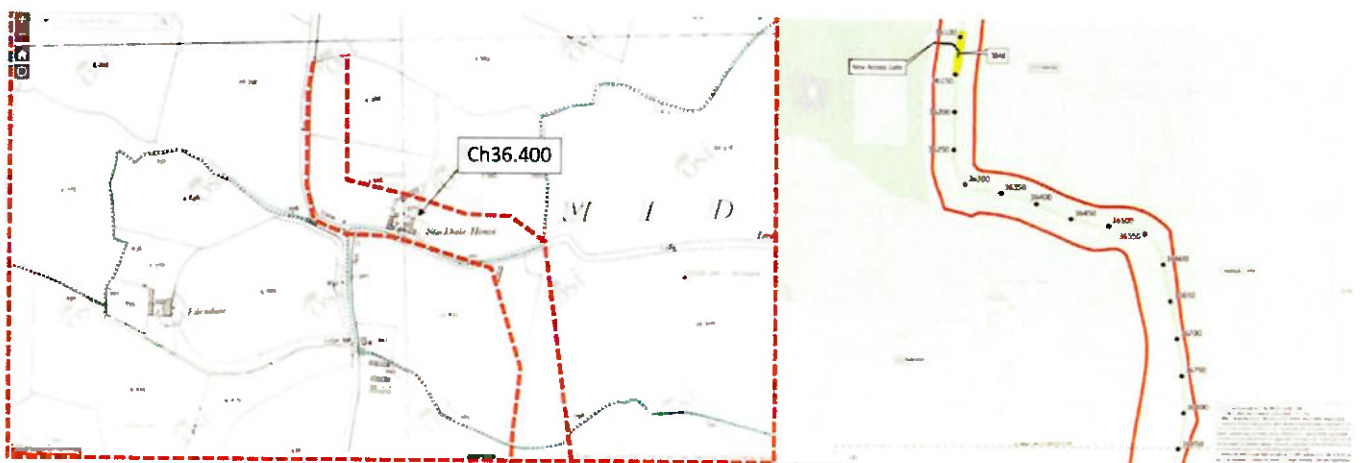
Ch35.450 - Ch36.550 Belcamp Corridor Off-line North

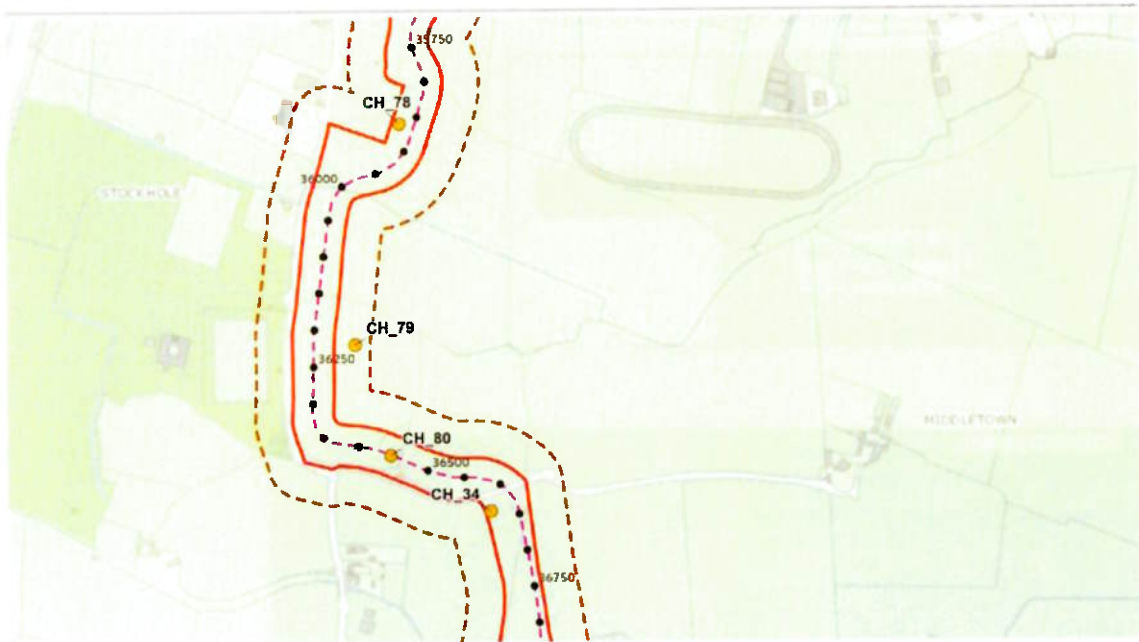


Off-road through green field. Vicinity of DU015-120.

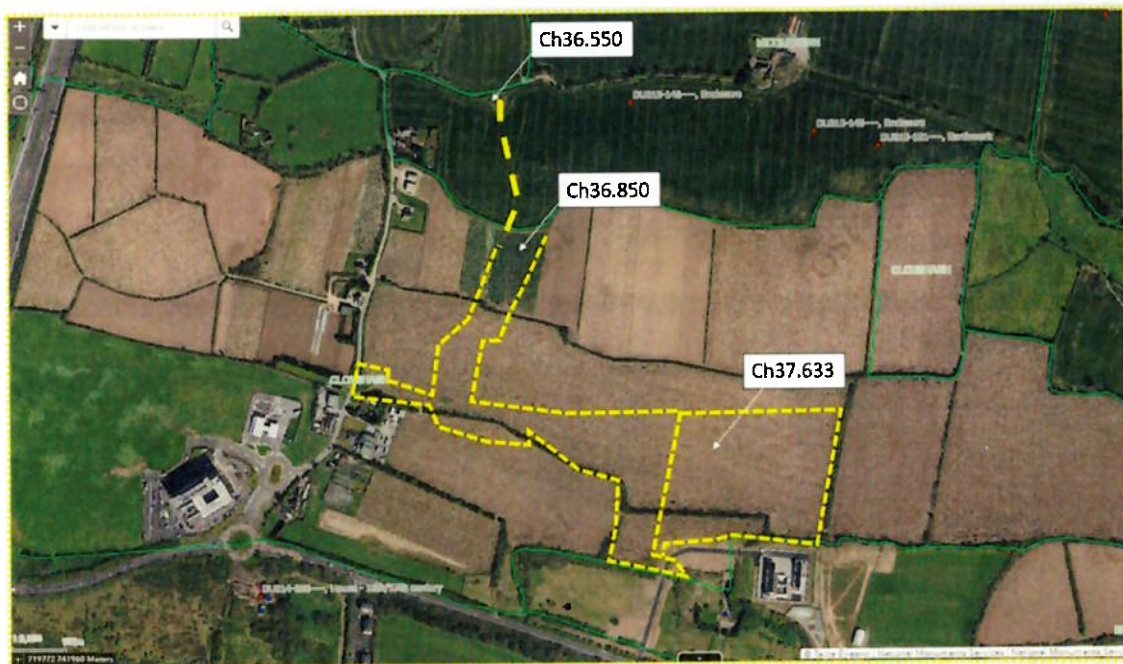
Roughly 1.10km x 0.30m wide = 3.3 ha.

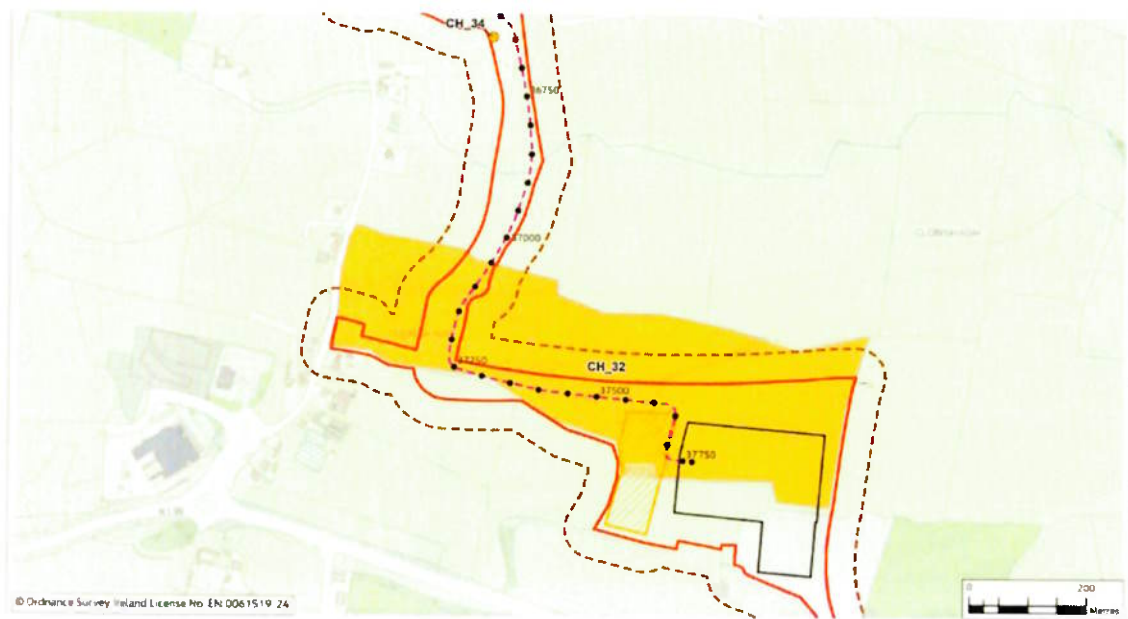
Also demolished Stockhole House Ch36.400 – which is also on 1837 OS - may have some bits left on site or under topsoil.





Ch36.550 – Ch37.633 Belcamp Corridor Off-line South





Noted CH.