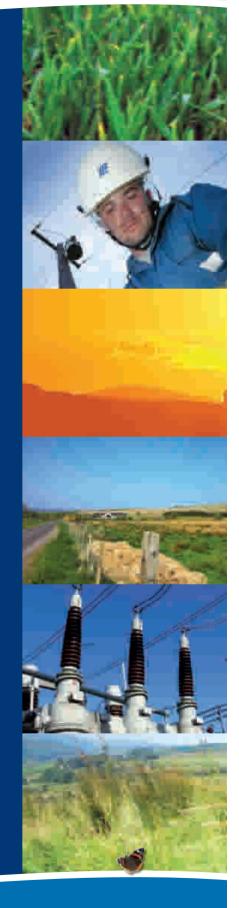


Tyrone - Cavan Interconnector

Volume 3 - Part 3(c) of 5

Consolidated Environmental Statement Appendices









Produced in association with:



9th Floor

The Clarence West Building

2 Clarence Street West

Belfast

BT2 7GP

Telephone: +44 (0)28 9060 7200 Fax: +44 (0)28 9060 7399 Website: www.aecom.com

This document is Volume 3: Appendices Part 3 of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector Environmental Statement (ES).

The whole ES consists of a number of documents printed separately and should be read together.

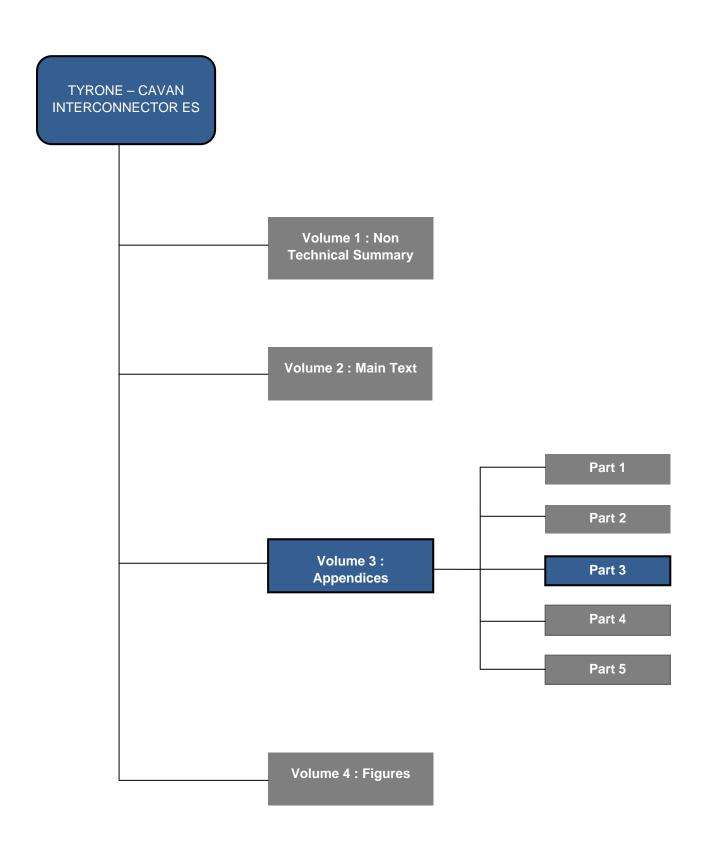


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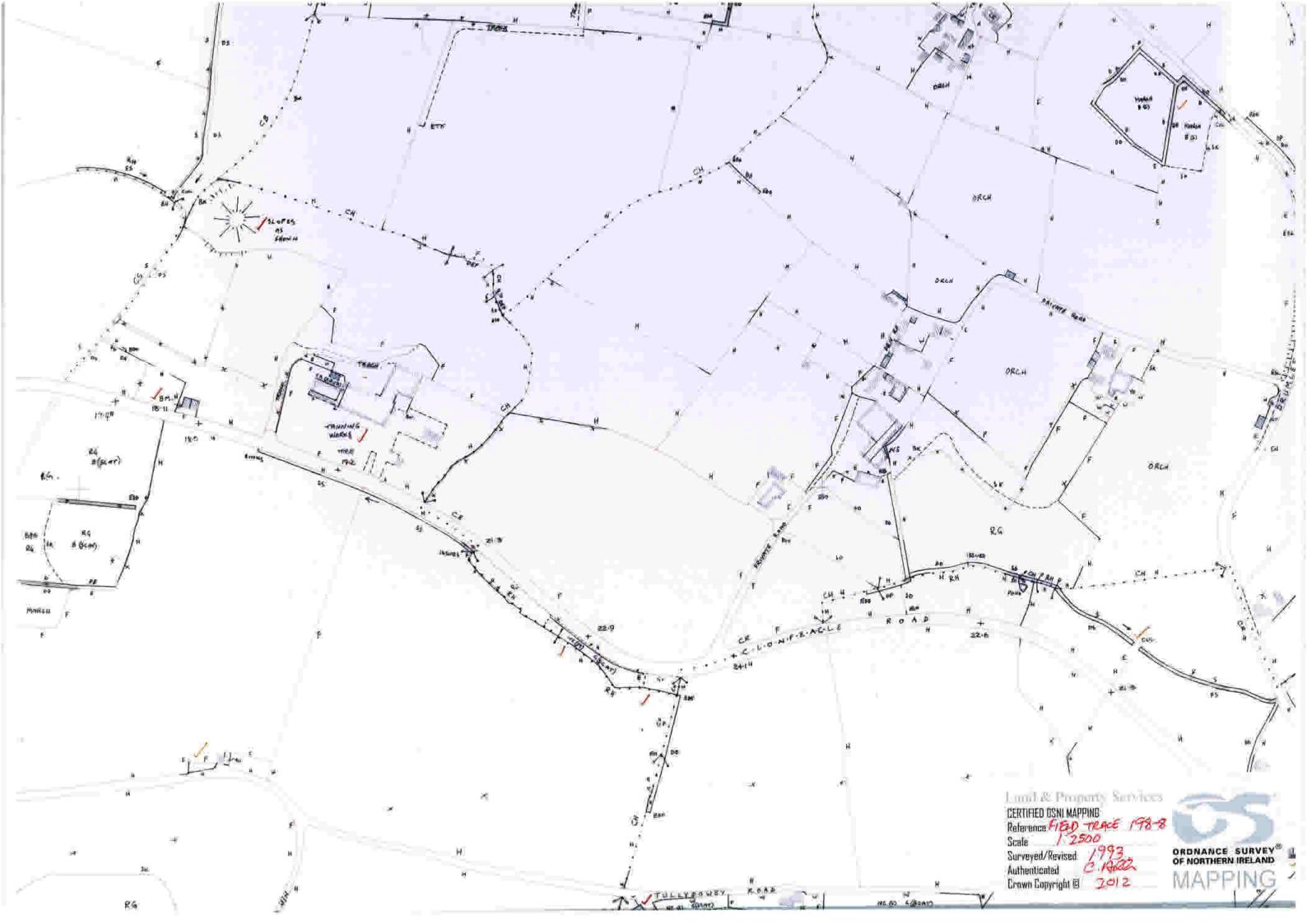
For ease of use this document has been printed in A4 format. Should a larger format be required, an electronic version is available at www.nie.co.uk.

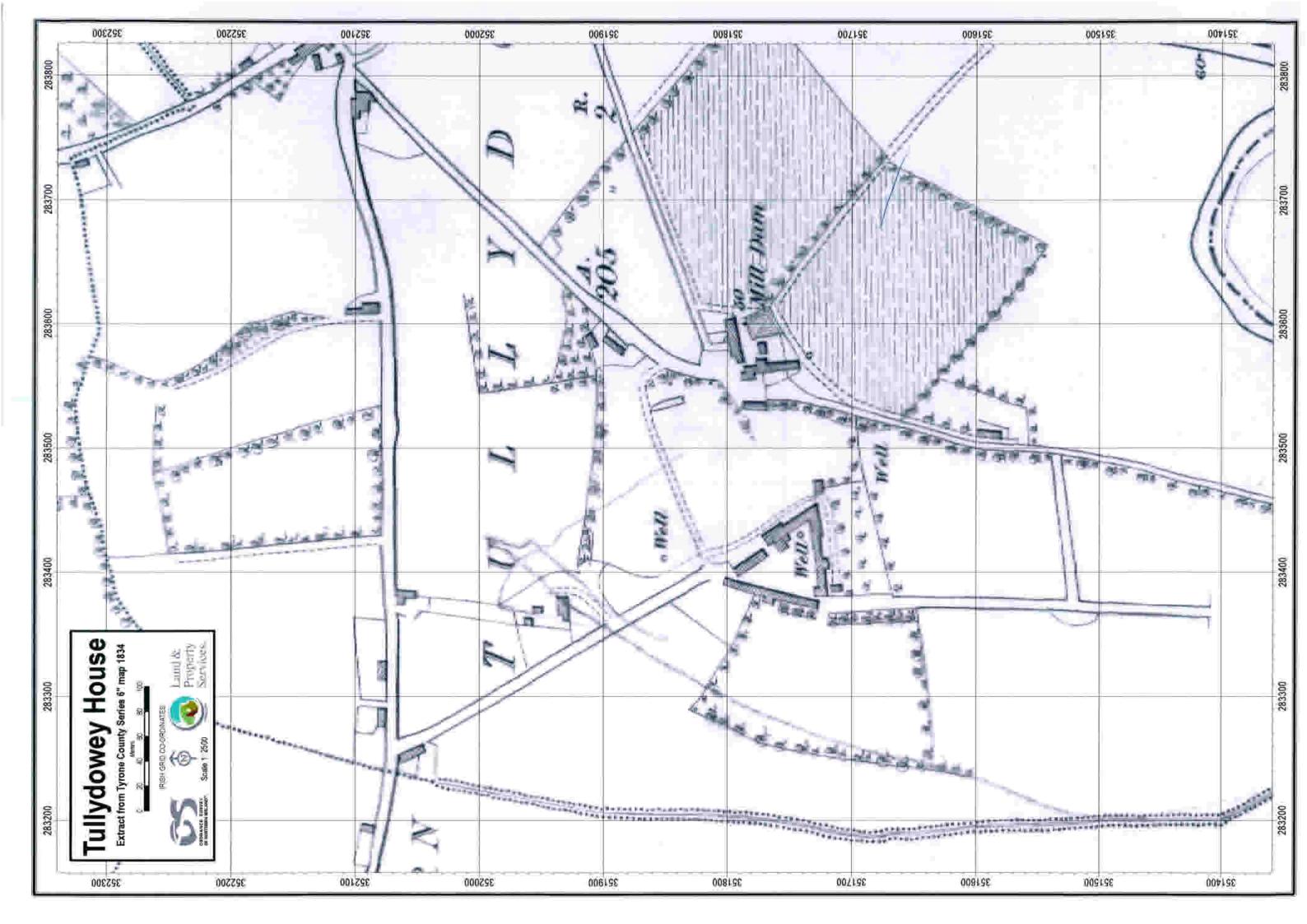
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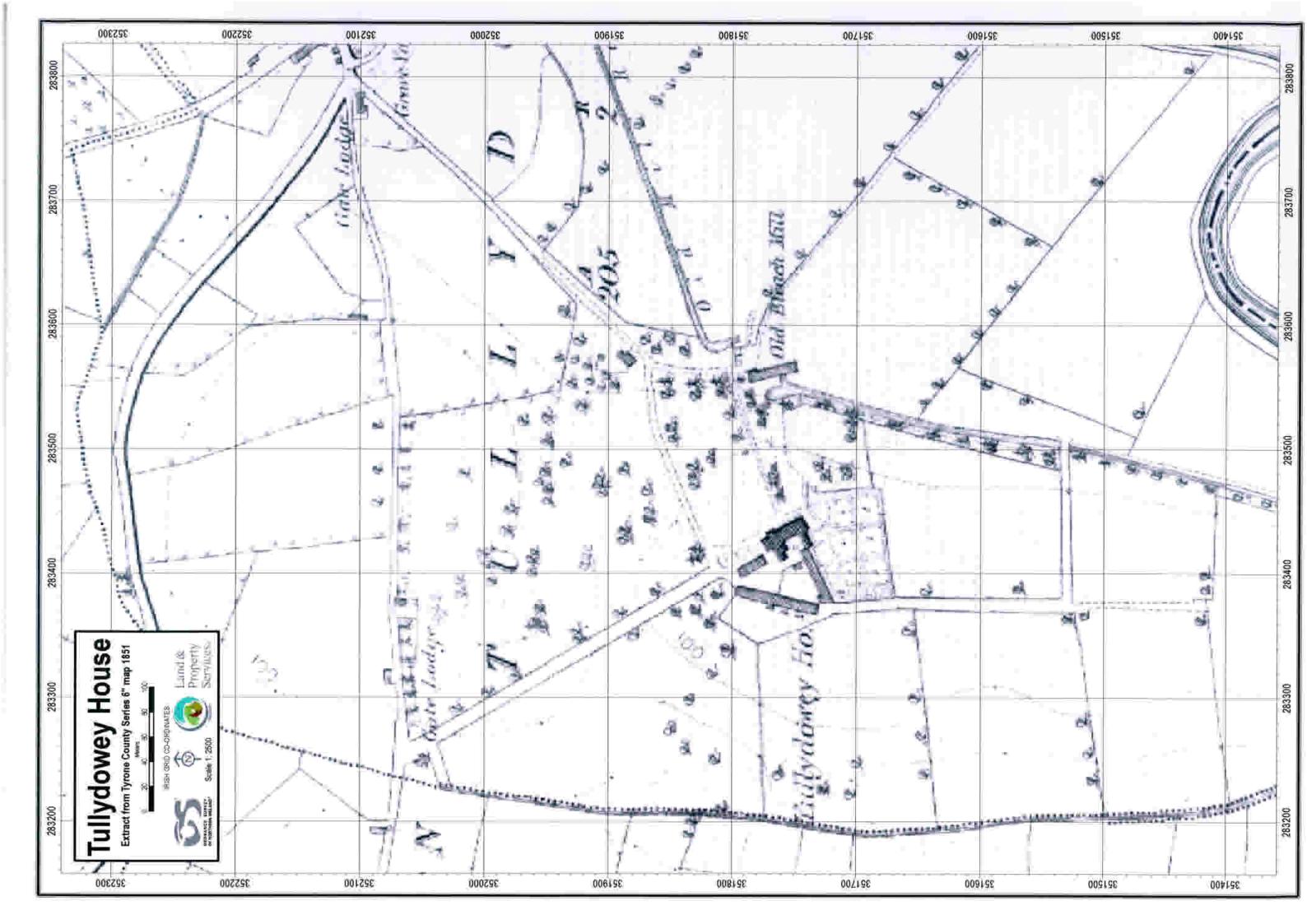
NIE Major Projects 120 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5HT

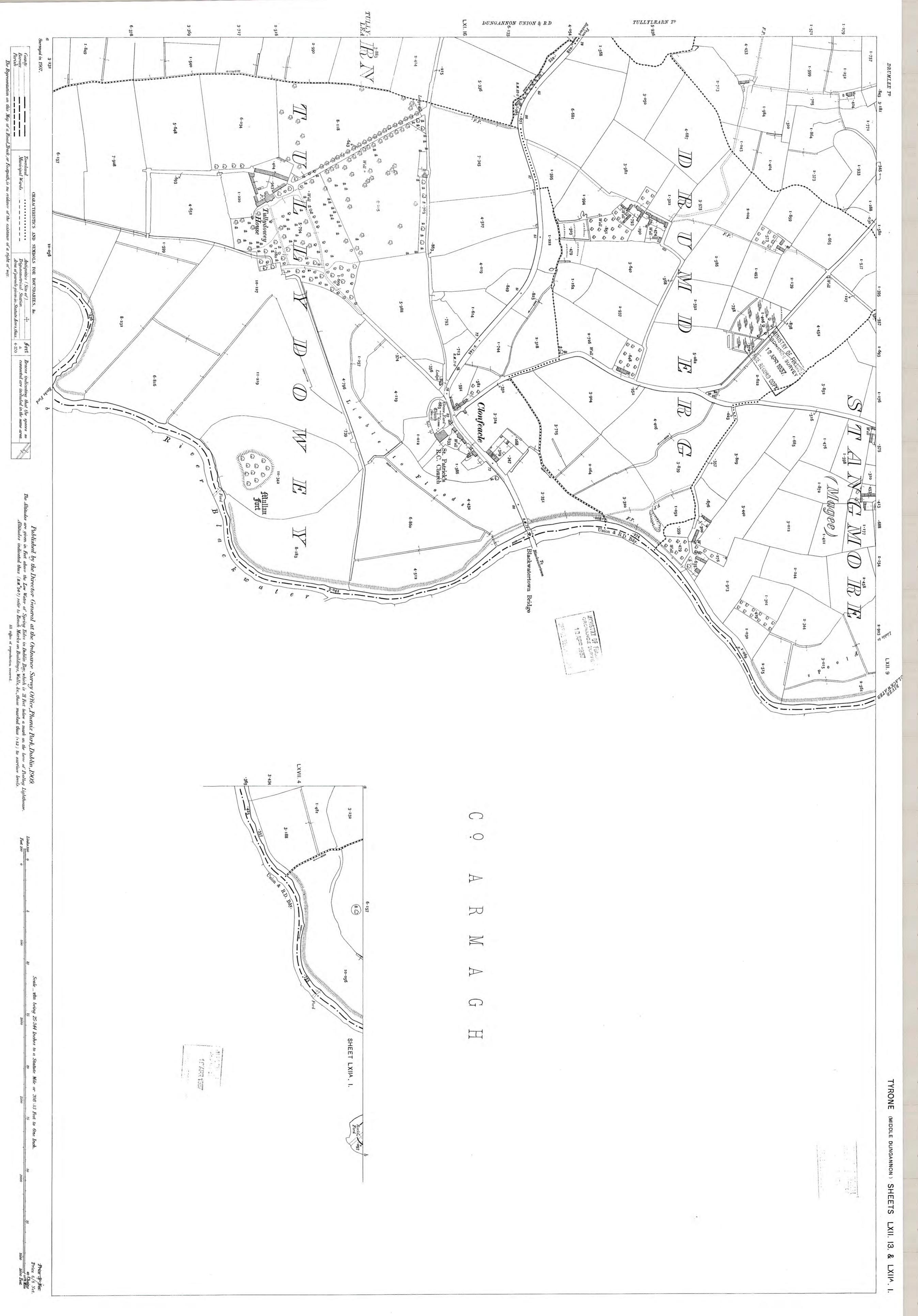
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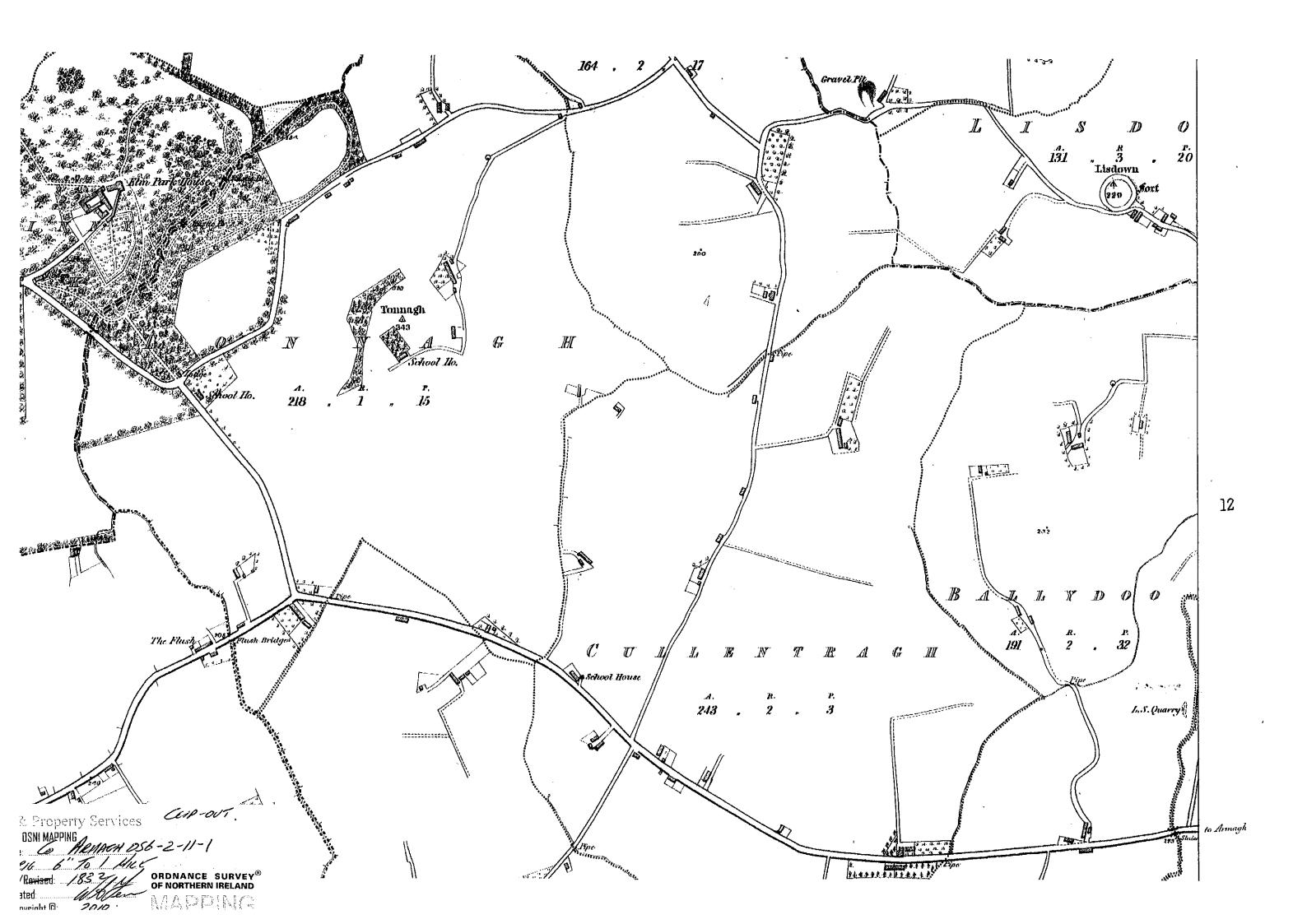
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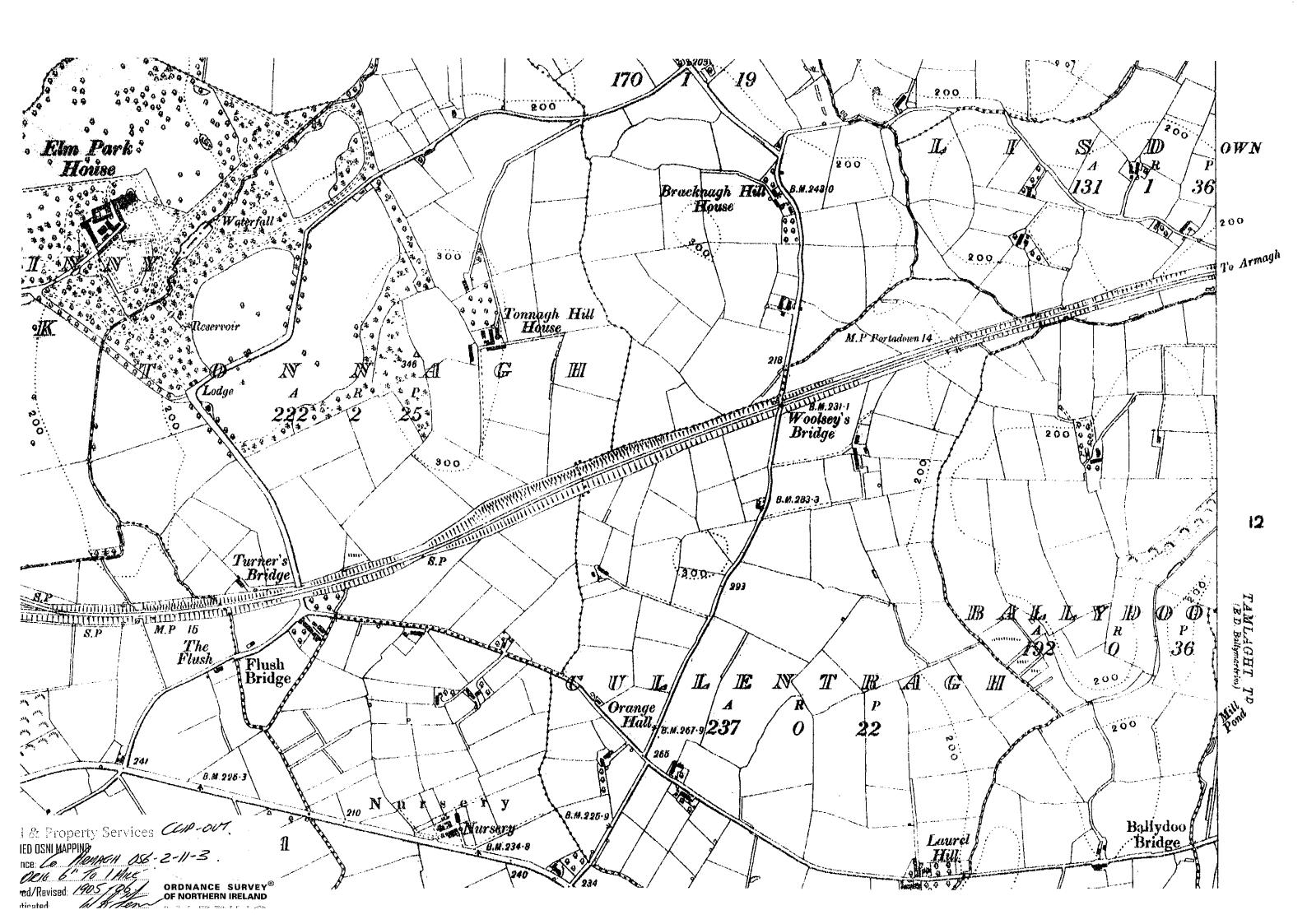


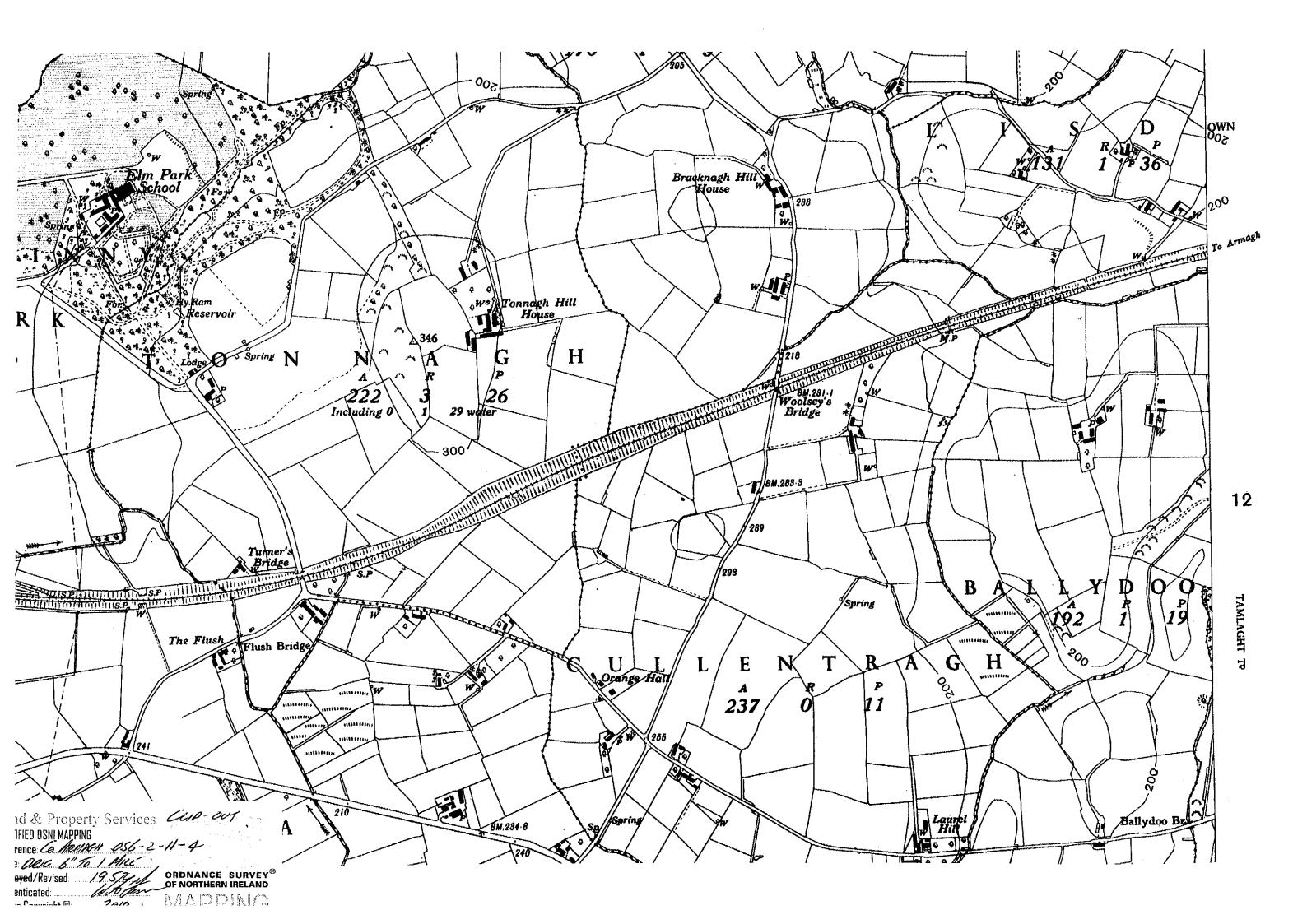


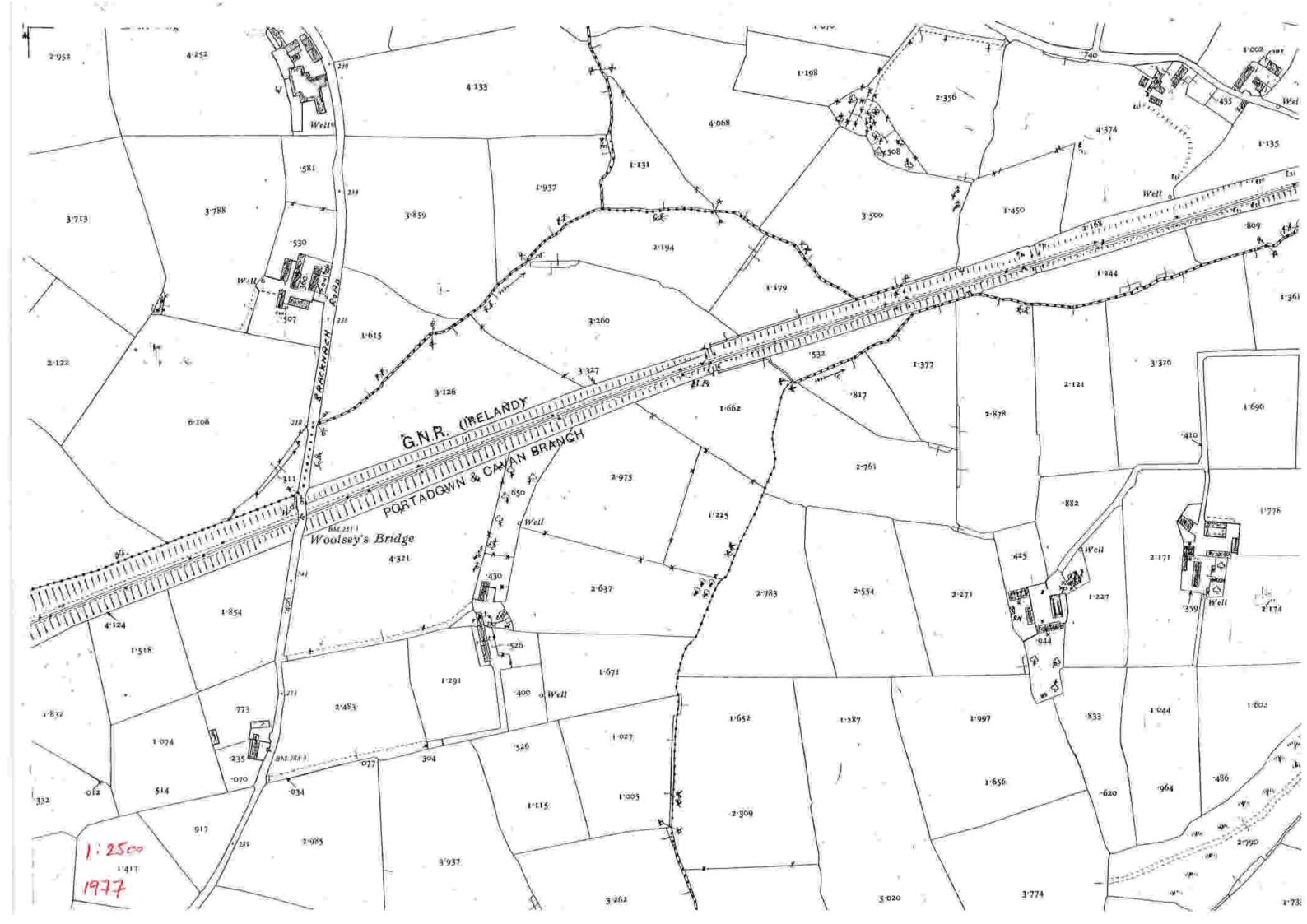


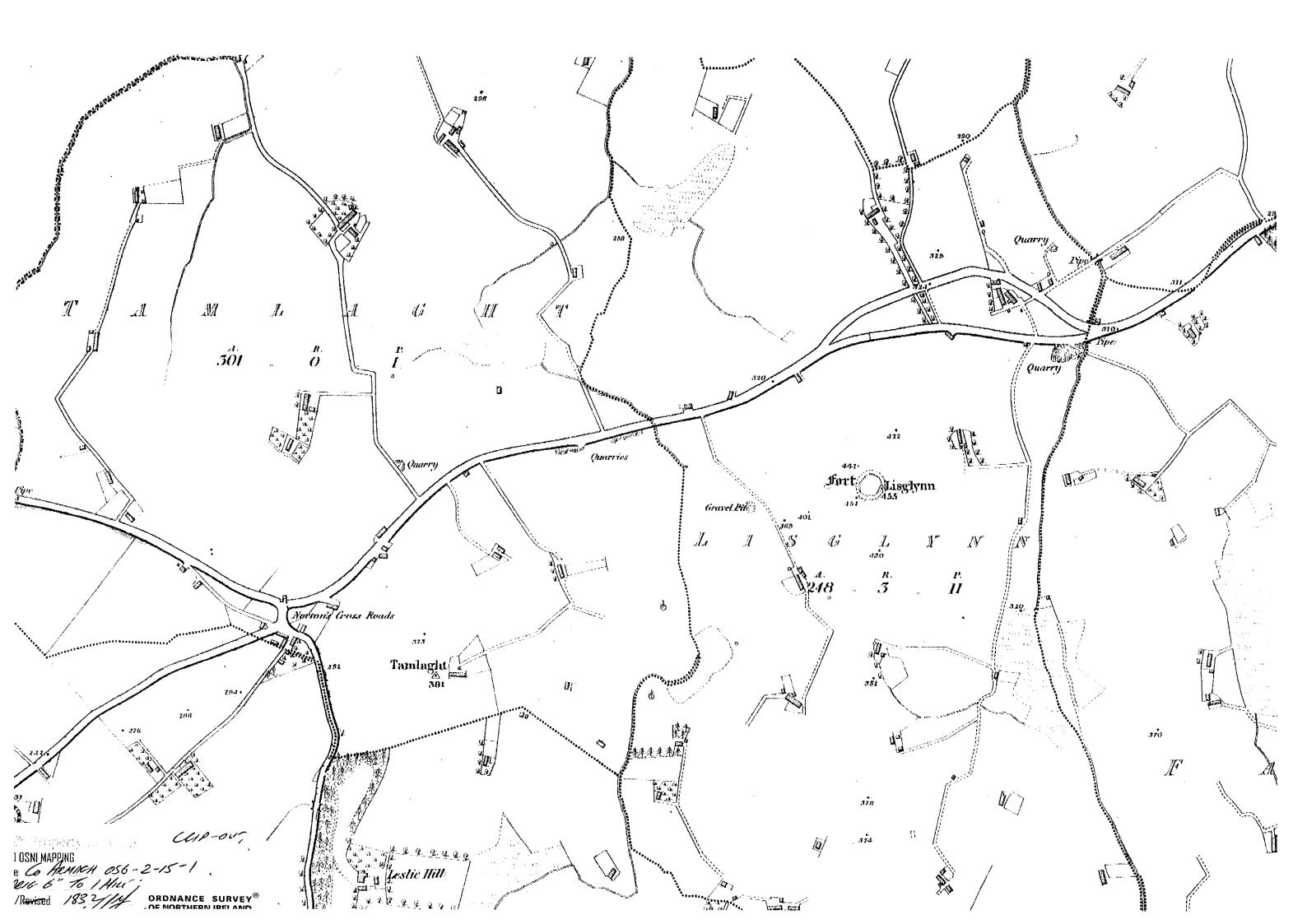


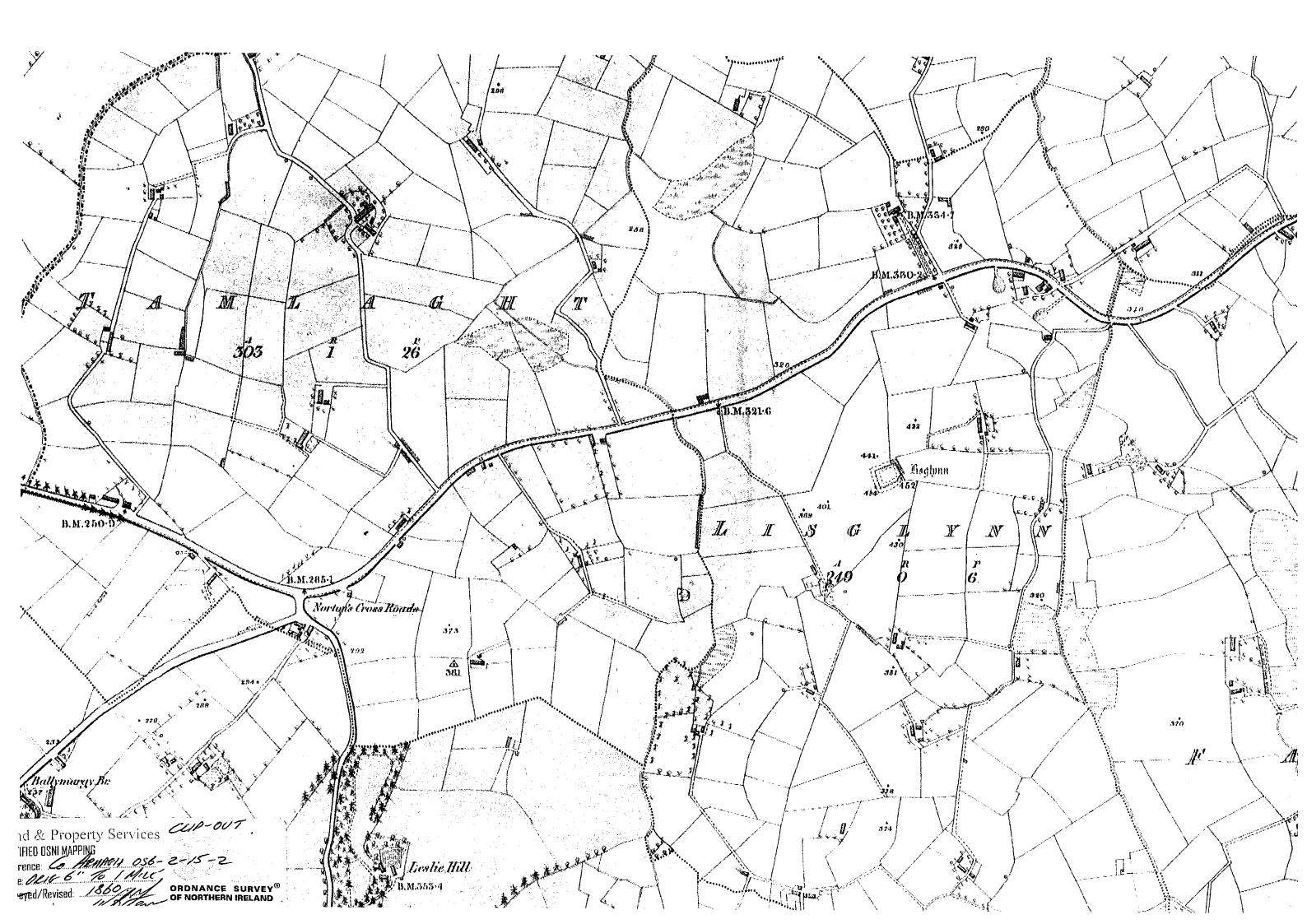


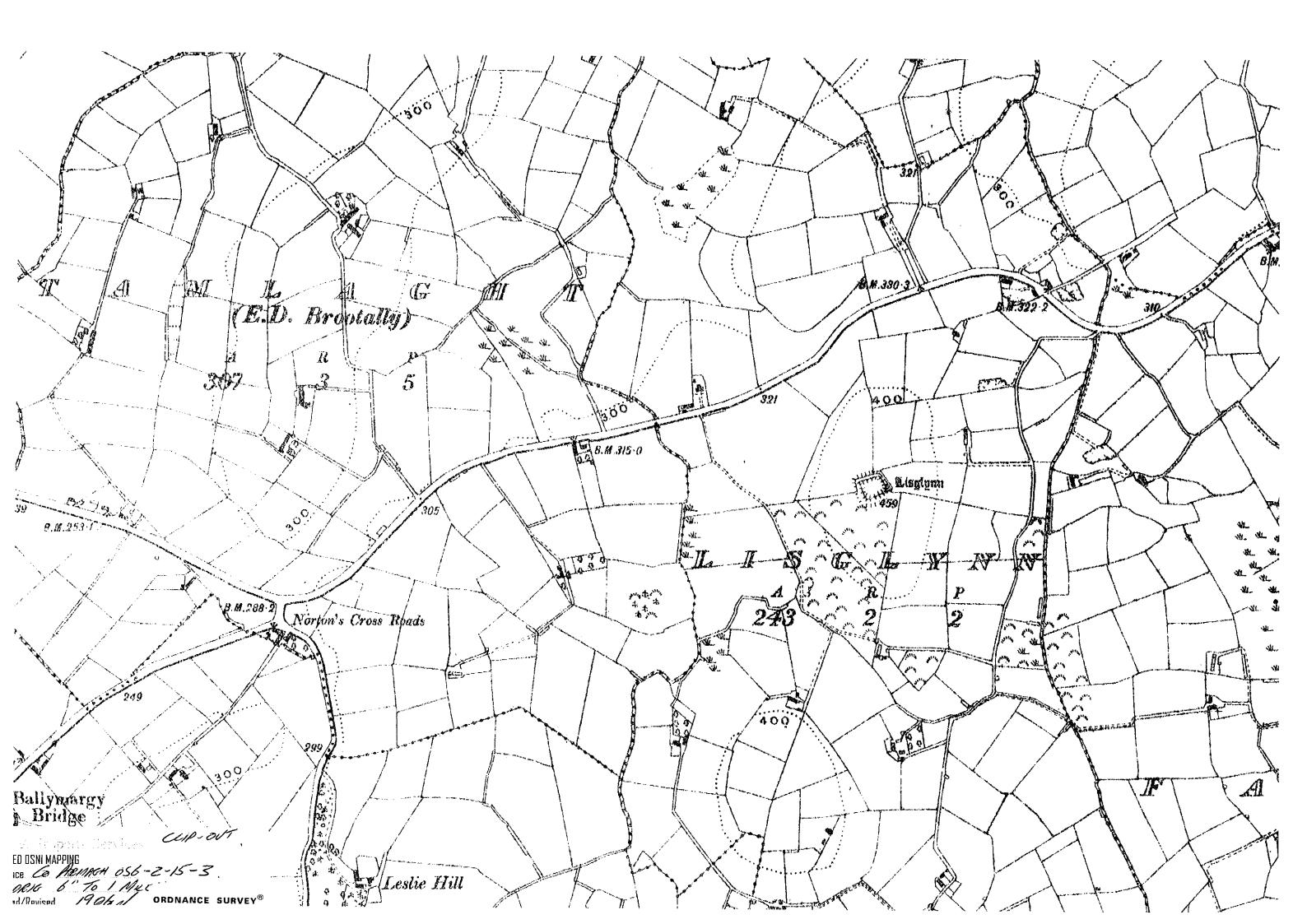


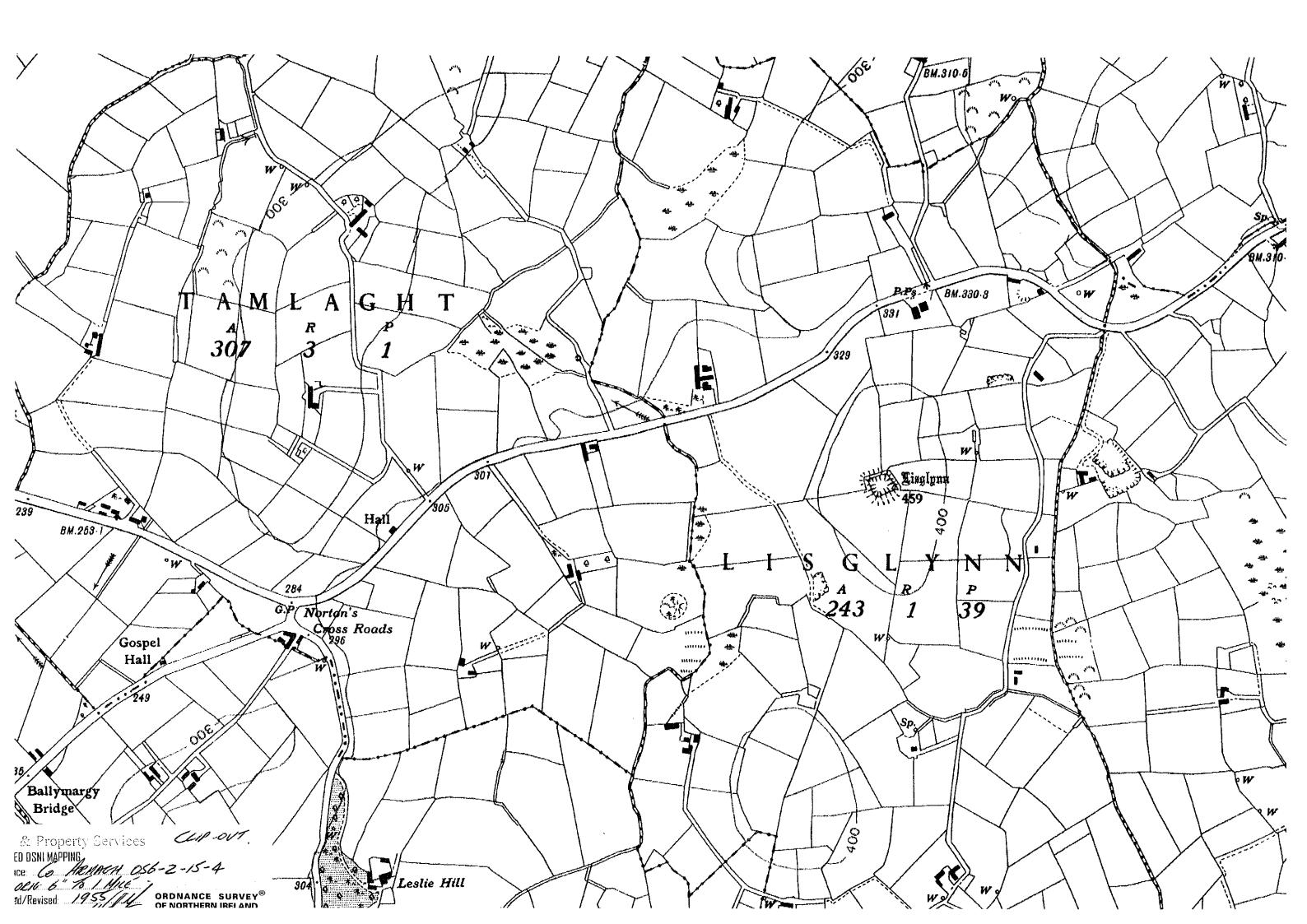


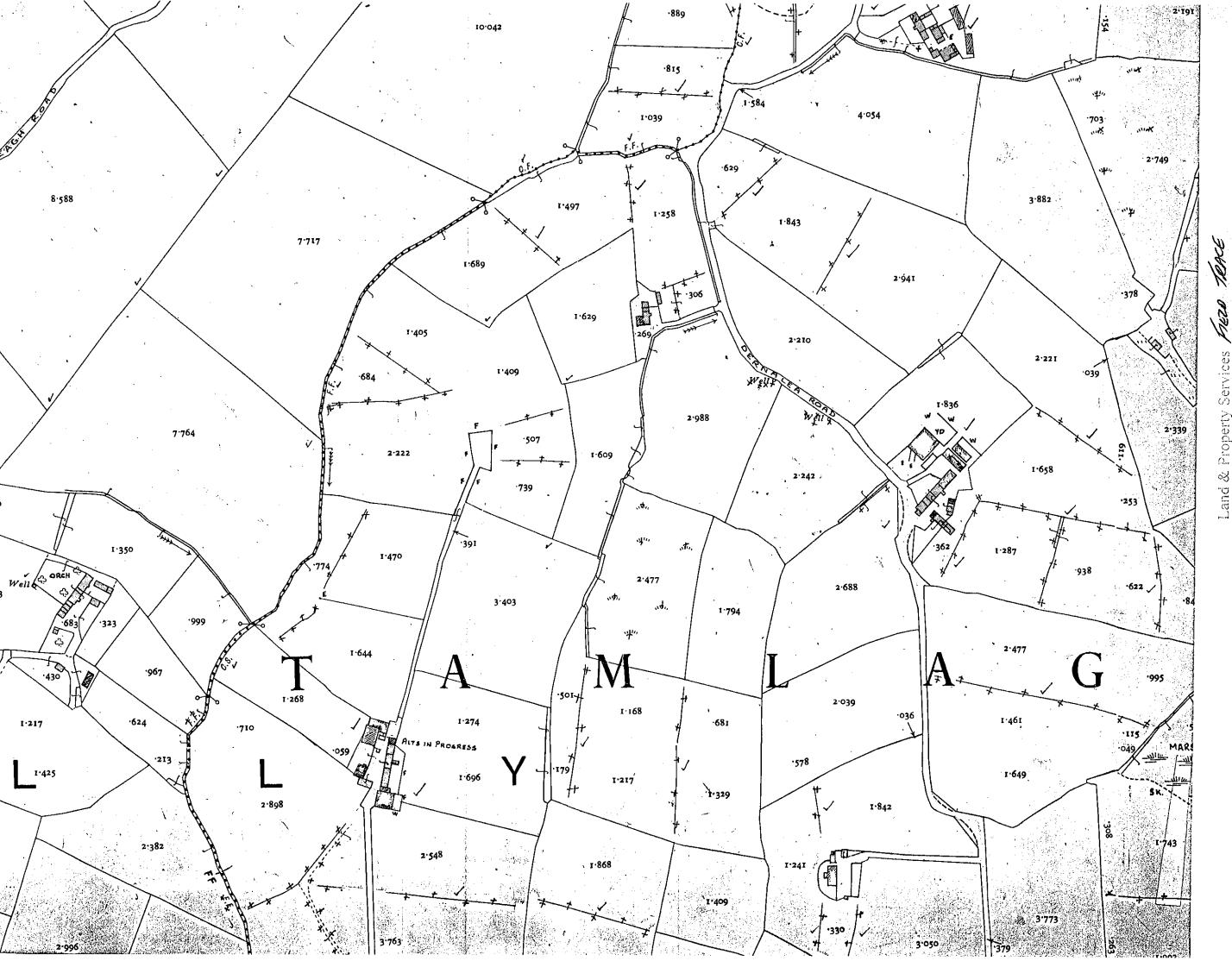












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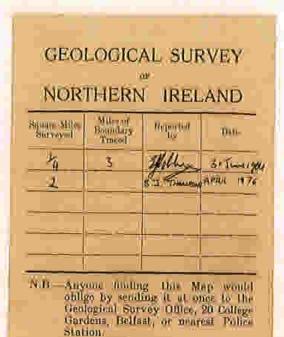
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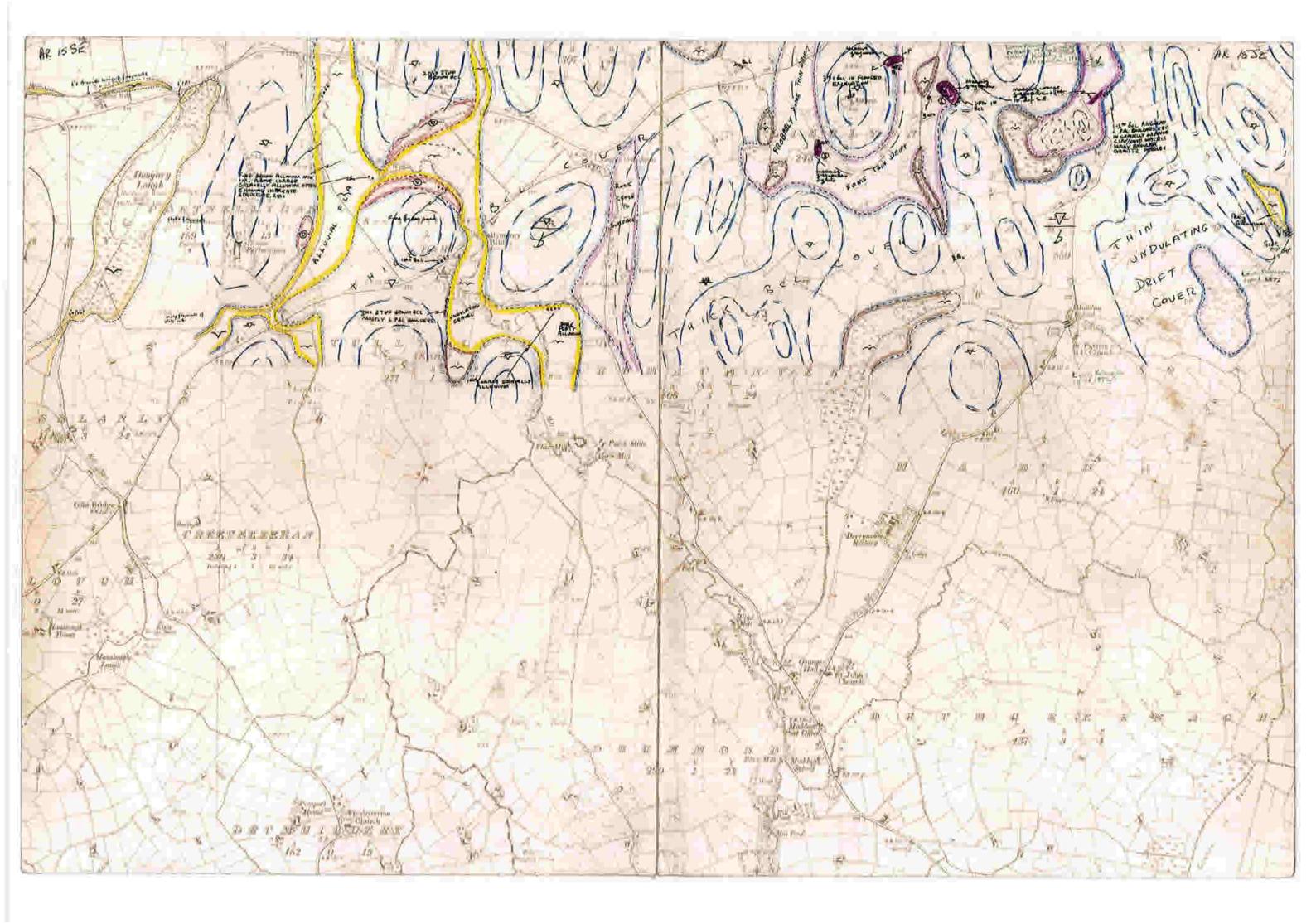
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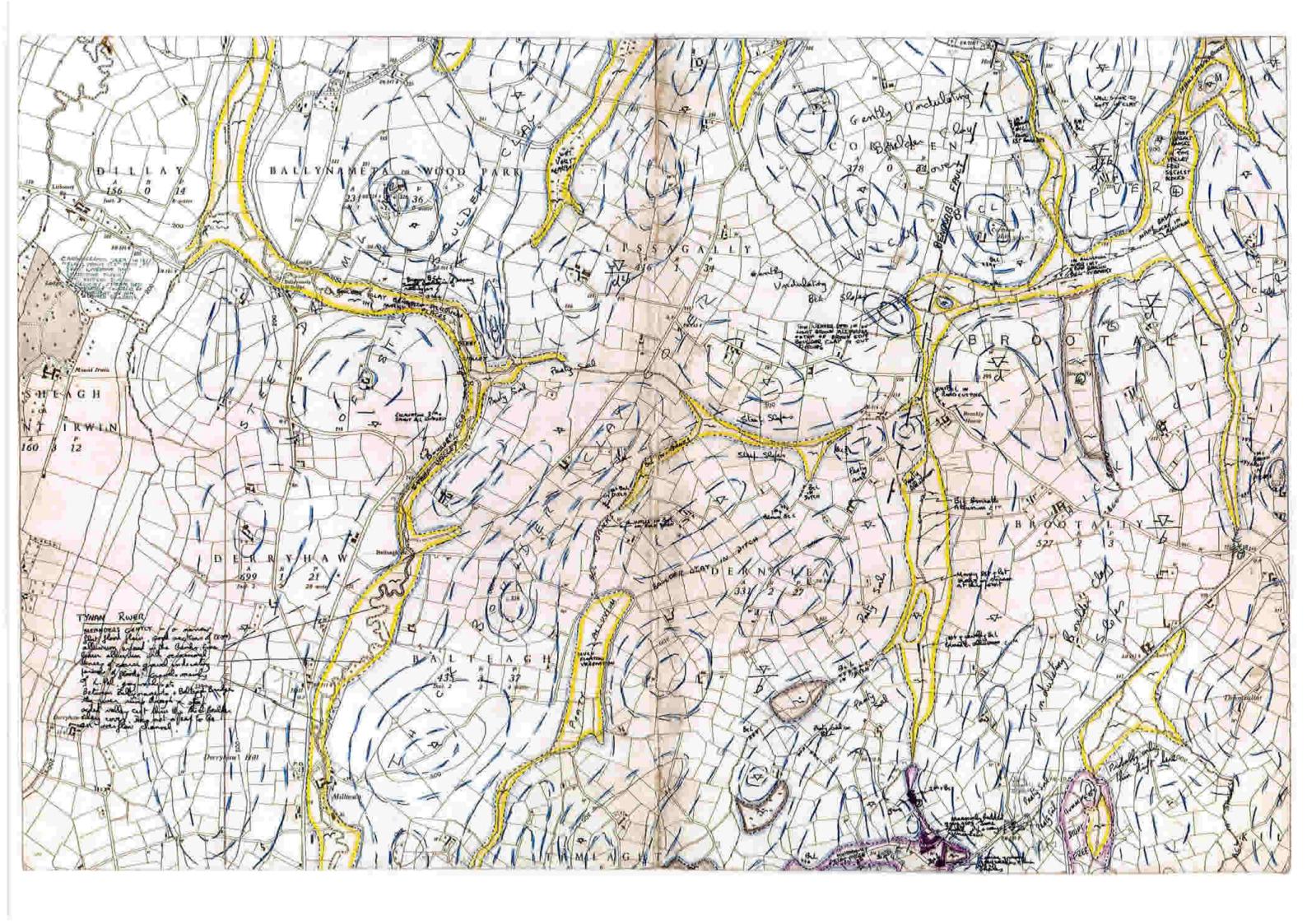
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Appendix 10A Consultations

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Mr A Moore Planning Service Planning Service Headquarters Millennium House 17-25 Great Victoria Street Belfast BT2 7BN Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA

Email: planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 5 April 2011

Telephone: 028 905 69615

Your Ref: 0/09/0792 Our Ref: 17178-7& 8

Full

RE: Erection of a single circuit 400kv overhead line (33.9km) from a new 400/275KV substation at Trewmount Road Moy to the border where it connects with the proposed network in the Republic of Ireland

Location: Land to the rear of 152 Trewmount Road in the townland of Turleenan Moy Dungannon Co Tyrone and overhead electrical transmission line from Trewmount Road Moy to the townlands of Crossreagh and Crossbane Co Armagh

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 19 January 2011. We acknowledge receipt of an Addendum to the Environmental Statement (ES) (Volumes 1-3). We also acknowledge receipt of an objection statement.

Position

Following further consideration of the information contained within the ES and Addendum, NIEA, Natural Heritage has **no objection** to the proposed development **subject to conditions** which would overcome our concerns.

Appraisal of the proposal: Natural Heritage Interest

NIEA, Natural Heritage considers that a newt survey is not required for this proposal as it is unlikely that there are waterbodies which are suitable as breeding ponds for newts within 200 metres of the proposed line route.

Following further consideration of the ES and Addendum we note that the waterbodies adjacent to Towers 32, 43 and 83 are identified as "watercourses" as shown on the legend of Figure 10.1 to 10.10 (Habitat Map) of Volume 4 of the ES. Towers 22 and 23 are located to the east of a pond as shown on the legend of Figure 10.1 to 10.10 (Habitat Map) of Volume 4 of the ES. The attributes of this pond and elements of the surrounding landform are unsuitable for newts – this has been identified in the aerial photography within Volume 4 of the ES, including Figures 1.7, 10.13 and





The results of the badger survey presented in the ES addendum record low incidences of badger evidence and activity within 150 metres of any tower locations. We welcome the intention to undertake a pre-construction badger survey. Should this survey record any new badger setts then a licence will be required for any works to be carried out within 25m of the entrances of any occupied setts.

The bat survey report concludes that the proposal is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the areas local bat population. There will be a loss of some trees which may potentially be used by bats. We consider that once all mature trees to be removed and lopped habve been identified, they shall be inspected for the presence of bats by an experienced bat worker or surveyor on the day of felling.

Recommendations

Should approval be granted, the following Conditions should be attached to the Decision Notice.

Conditions

Once all mature trees to be removed and lopped have been identified, any potential roost sites shall be inspected for the presence of bats by an experienced bat worker or surveyor on the day of felling. If evidence of bats is found during inspection, all work shall cease immediately and advice shall be sought from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency Wildlife Inspector.

Reason: To minimise the impact of the proposal on the local bat population.

Deflectors shall be inserted on lines that cross the Blackwater River Valley.

Reason: To reduce the risk of collision to swans.

Works in the vicinity of watercourses shall avoid contact with the watercourse surface and bed.

Reason: To minimise the impact of the proposal on bats.

All works to take place within 25 metres of existing badger sett entrances on site shall be supervised by an NIEA Protected Species Licence holder.

Reason: To mitigate potential impacts to badgers on the site.

<u>Informatives</u>

The applicant's attention is drawn to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), which states that it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of a European protected species included in Schedule II of these Regulations, which includes all species of bat. It is also an offence;

- (a) Deliberately to disturb such an animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection;
- (b) Deliberately to disturb such an animal in such a way as to be likely to;
- (i) Affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which it belongs:
- (ii) Impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or care for its young; or
- (iii) Impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;





- (c) Deliberately to obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or
- (d) To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

To avoid any breach of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), all mature trees and/or buildings to be removed should be checked on the day of felling for the presence of bats, by an experienced bat worker or surveyor.

If there is evidence of bat activity on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast. BT72JA. Tel. 02890 569623

The applicant's attention is drawn to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), which states that it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of a European protected species included in Schedule II of these Regulations, which includes otters (*Lutra lutra*). It is also an offence;

- (a) Deliberately to disturb such an animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection;
- (b) Deliberately to disturb such an animal in such a way as to be likely to;
- (i) affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which it belongs;
- (ii) Impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or care for its young; or
- (iii) Impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
- (c) Deliberately to obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or
- (d) To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

If there is evidence of otter activity on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast. BT72JA. Tel. 02890 569623

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which indicates that it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order which includes the badger (*Meles meles*). It is also an offence to disturb these animals or damage or obstruct access to their place of refuge, or damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects their place of refuge.

If there is evidence of badger on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast. BT72JA. Tel. 02890 569623

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which indicates that it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order which includes the smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*). It is also an offence to disturb these animals or damage or obstruct access to their place of refuge, or damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects their place of refuge. Tel. 02890 569623





If there is evidence of newts on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast. BT72JA. Tel. 02890 569623

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which states that it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. It is also an offence to take or damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. If any person intentionally disturbs any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs dependent young of such a bird they shall be guilty of an offence. It is therefore advised that tree and hedge loss should be kept to a minimum and removal should not be carried out during the bird-breeding season between 1st March and 31st August.

Yours sincerely

Development Management Team





Mr A Moore Planning Service Planning Service Headquarters Millennium House 17-25 Great Victoria Street Belfast BT2 7BN Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA Email: planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 29 March 2011

Telephone: 028 905 69615 Your Ref: O/09/0792

Our Ref: 17178-7&8

Full

RE: Erection of a single circuit 400kv overhead line (33.9km) from a new 400/275KV substation at Trewmount Road Moy to the border where it connects with the proposed network in the Republic of Ireland

Location: Land to the rear of 152 Trewmount Road in the townland of Turleenan Moy Dungannon Co Tyrone and overhead electrical transmission line from Trewmount Road Moy to the townlands of Crossreagh and Crossbane Co Armagh

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 19 January 2011. We acknowledge receipt of an Addendum to the Environmental Statement (Volumes 1-3). We also acknowledge receipt of an objection statement.

Position

NIEA, Natural Heritage considers that there is **insufficient information** provided with the application to assess the importance of natural heritage interests. We cannot give a position on this application until further information is received. **In the absence of this, NIEA, Natural Heritage will recommend refusal of the application on the grounds of insufficient information.**

Appraisal of the proposal: Natural Heritage Interest

Addendum B of the ES Addendum contains a bat report, target notes, and a badger report.

Following further consideration of the target notes we note that several of the proposed tower locations are in close proximity to areas of standing water (pond). We consider that these water bodies may have potential as breeding ponds for smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*. The tower locations which are in close proximity to areas recorded as standing water (pond) are as follows: 22, 23, 32, 43 and 83

We therefore consider that a newt survey of these areas is required as they are within 200 metres of areas of standing water (pond).





This survey of these areas must be to NIEA, NH specifications and should be carried out between **Mid March** and **Mid June**. The specification is attached with this response and can be found at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/newt_survey.pdf

Once the survey has been received NIEA, NH will be in a position to give further consideration to this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Development Management Team

NEWT SURVEY - SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* (formerly *Triturus vulgaris*) is the only species of newt in Northern Ireland, and is protected under Schedules 5, 6 & 7 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a newt, possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a common newt, unless acquired lawfully, disturb newts or obstruct access to their place of refuge, or destroy or damage anything that conceals or protects their place of refuge.

Although newts are widespread across Northern Ireland, suitable habitat for the species is in decline. Newts breed in ponds and areas of standing water with vegetation cover close by. Ponds are exceptionally vulnerable, and face many threats, including drainage and infill. To ensure your development proposals comply with the Order, Northern Ireland Environment Agency has asked you to carry out an appropriate Newt survey. You should follow these guidelines:

- The surveyor contracted to undertake this work must have relevant experience which is deemed acceptable to the Department, for example an ecological consultant with experience of, and/or qualifications in amphibian surveying.
- The date and time of the survey and the qualifications of the surveyor should be included in the survey report.
- Newt surveys should be carried out between Mid March and Mid June.
- Surveys must be carried out within one year of submission to the department.
- The survey should establish whether Newts are active or inactive in the waterbody and surrounding terrestrial area. The survey should include the surrounding 200m of terrestrial habitat associated with the waterbody.
- The information should be presented in a written report and must include large scale maps at
 1:500 scale. The methods used for survey must be included within the survey report (bottle





traps are not permitted in Northern Ireland). All evidence of use by Newts found, for example eggs, or sightings, should be included.

- If necessary, the survey should recommend the most appropriate mitigation measures which
 will protect Newts on site from impacts caused by the development. Mitigation measures
 should address impacts pre, during and post construction phase. The survey should also
 stipulate whether the proposed mitigation measures will require a Protected Species Licence.
- In the event that the planning application goes to appeal or public inquiry, persons contracted to carry out surveys may be required to appear at, or give evidence to the appeal or inquiry.

For more information on Newts and development, contact:

Wildlife Officer, Tel: (028) 9065 69602

Northern Ireland Environment Agency Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park Belfast BT7 2JA





Z 8 MAY 2010

Mr A Moore
Planning Service
Planning Service Headquarters
Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BN

Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA Email: planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 26 May 2010

Telephone: 028 905 69615

Your Ref: 0/09/0792

Our Ref: 17178-2,4,5 and 6

Full

RE: Erection of a single circuit 400kv overhead line (33.9km) from a new 400/275KV substation at Trewmount Road Moy to the border where it connects with the proposed network in the Republic of Ireland

Location: Land to the rear of 152 Trewmount Road in the townland of Turleenan Moy Dungannon Co Tyrone and overhead electrical transmission line from Trewmount Road Moy to the townlands of Crossreagh and Crossbane Co Armagh

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letters for the above planning application which was received in this office on 9, 15 and 20 April 2010 and 13 May 2010. We acknowledge the receipt of objection letters.

We have considered the issues related to ecology which have been raised in the objection letters and request the submission of information which was omitted from the Environmental Statement.

note that the numbering sequence of target notes in Appendix D1 of Volume 3 of the Invironmental Statement does not include the following target notes (TN): TN 1-5, 9, 10, 16-21, 23-28, 30, 33-37, 40-42 and 48-52. We consider that these TNs should be submitted to NIEA: Natural Heritage for consideration. We do note that the TNs included in the Environmental Statement relate to those areas within the line route study area which are of nature conservation value.

The badger survey does not provide a map outlining the location of recorded setts within the site. A report should be submitted of this survey and presented in the following format:

- The date and time of the survey and the qualifications of the surveyor should be included in the survey report.
- The survey should establish whether or not Badgers have established sett(s) (active or inactive) or use the area for foraging. All evidence of use by Badgers found, for example latrines, hair caught on wire or bedding should be included.





 The information should be presented in a written report and must include large scale maps at 1:500 scale for those areas in the line route study area where badger setts were recorded.

Once this information has been provided NIEA: Natural Heritage can provide further consideration to this proposal.

Andrew McIntosh

On behalf of NIEA: Natural Heritage

andrew Midd





Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA Email planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 29 April 2010

Telephone: 028 905 69615

Your Ref: 0/09/0792 Our Ref: 17178-3

Full

RE: Erection of a single circuit 400kv overhead line (33.9km) from a new 400/275KV substation at Trewmount Road Moy to the border where it connects with the proposed network in the Republic of Ireland

F4 (30)

Location: Land to the rear of 152 Trewmount Road in the townland of Turleenan Moy Dungannon Co Tyrone and overhead electrical transmission line from Trewmount Road Moy to the townlands of Crossreagh and Crossbane Co Armagh

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 12 April 2010. We acknowledge receipt of a submission by Michael Burrows Associates on behalf of SEAT dated 19 February 2010.

On page 8 of the submission a formal request has been made under the Environmental Information Regulations (NI) 2004 for details of any formal or informal advice or agreements limiting or forming the scope and methodologies to be employed during ecological surveys carried out by the applicant in relation to this proposal.

Accordingly we submit with this letter the following information:

- 1 Copy of an e-mail from Cormac Loughran of AECOM dated 21 May 2009 providing a bat survey methodology for the proposal.
- Draft bat survey methodology (21 May 2009).
- Letter dated 10 August 2009 detailing the bal survey methodology which was detailed at a meeting held on 10 June 2009.
- Letter from NIEA. Natural Heritage to Planning Service dated 27 January 2009 (This letter has
 not been presented in Appendix A of Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement.

Andrew McIntosh

On behalf of NIEA: Natural Heritage









Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Natural Heritage
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
BELFAST
BT7 2JA
Email: planningreminders@deenl.gov.uk

Date: 3 February 2010 Telephone: 028 905 69615 Your Ref: O/09/0792

Our Ref: 17178-1

Full

RE: Erection of a single circuit 400kv overhead line (33.9km) from a new 400/275KV substation at Trewmount Road Moy to the border where it connects with the proposed network in the Republic of Ireland

Location: Land to the rear of 152 Trewmount Road in the townland of Turleenan Moy Dungannon. Overhead electrical transmission line detailed in Form P1(NIE) application attached

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 6 January 2010. We acknowledge receipt of an Environmental Statement (ES)

Position

NIEA. Natural Heritage has no objection to the proposed development subject to conditions which would overcome our concerns.

Appraisal of the proposal: Natural Heritage Interest

The Environmental Statement provides a report of ecological assessment of habitats and species present along the interconnector route. We note that bat surveys, as agreed with NIEA: Natural Heritage, are ongoing, and bat roosts, flightlines and feeding areas, and 2010 results will be issued in a separate report to NIEA: Natural Heritage.

We are content with the quality of the ecological reports contained within the ES, and consider that a number of mitigation measures are required to minimise the impact of the proposal on local biodiversity.

Recommendations

Should approval be granted, the following Conditions should be attached to the Decision Notice.





Conditions

Any removal of hedgerow trees, cutting of hedgerows and woodland clearance shall take place outside the bird breeding season which lasts from the 1st of March to the 31st of August. Reason: To protect breeding birds and protect the biodiversity of the site.

Deflectors shall be inserted on lines that cross the Blackwater River Valley. Reason: To reduce the risk of collision to swans.

Works in the vicinity of watercourses will avoid contact with the watercourse surface and bed Reason. To minimise impacts to riverine habitats.

Once all mature trees to be removed and lopped have been identified, any potential roost sites shall be inspected for the presence of bats by an experienced bat worker or surveyor on the day of telling. If evidence of bats is found during inspection, all work shall cease immediately and advice shall be sought from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency Wildlife Officer.

Reason: To minimise the impact of the proposal on bats

Informatives

The applicant's attention is drawn to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), which states that it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of a European protected species included in Schedule II of these Regulations, which includes all species of bat. It is also an offence;

- (a) Deliberately to disturb such an animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection;
- (b) Deliberately to disturb such an animal in such a way as to be likely to:
- (i) Affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which it belongs;
- (ii) Impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or care for its young, or
- (iii) Impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
- (c) Deliberately to obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or
- (d) To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

To avoid any breach of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), all mature trees and buildings to be removed should be checked on the day of felling for the presence of bats, by an experienced bat worker or surveyor.

If there is any evidence of bats on site, all works must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the NIEA Wildlife Officer (Tel: 02890 569623), as a European Protected Species (EPS) License may be required.





The applicant's attention is drawn to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as a pended), which states that it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild animal of a European protected species included in Schedule II of these Regulations, which includes offence;

- (a) Deliberately to disturb such an animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection,
- (b) Deliberately to disturb such an animal in such a way as to be likely to:
 - (i) affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which it belongs:
 - (ii) Impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or care for its young, or
 - (iii) Impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
- (c) Deliberately to obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or
- (d) To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

If there is evidence of otter activity on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Bullding, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT72JA, Tel. 02890 569623

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which indicates that it is an offence to intentionally kill. Injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order which includes the badger (Meles meles). It is also an offence to disturb these animals or damage or obstruct access to their place of refuge, or damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects their place of refuge.

If there is evidence of badger on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT72JA.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which indicates that it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order which includes the smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*). It is also an offence to disturb these animals or damage or obstruct access to their place of refuge, or damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects their place of refuge.

If there is evidence of newts on the site, all work must cease immediately and further advice must be sought from the Wildlife Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Bullding, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast. BT72JA.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which states that it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. It is also an offence to take or damage or destroy the nest or egg(s) of these birds or to disturb bird(s) while they are building, in or at a nest, or whilst they have dependent young. Where the bird is included in Schedule 1 of the Order any offence is liable to a special penalty.





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Andrew McIntosh
On behalf of NIEA: Natural Heritage





Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA Email: planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 2 September 2009 Telephone: 028 905 69615 Your Ref: O/08/0822 Our Ref: 16506-3

PAD

RE: PAD for proposed North South Electricity Interconnector Location: Lands within Armagh District Council and Dungannon Borough Council

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 19 August 2009. We acknowledge receipt of the following chapters of the Draft Environmental Statement: 2, 3, 4, 7 and 13.

Following meetings with the applicant we are aware that Bat surveys, which were requested in our response dated 27 January 2009, are currently on-going. We understand that because of the scale of the proposal, it will only be possible to complete the bat surveys by 2010. However we understand that bat surveys of the most suitable habitat for bats, and potential roosts are nearing completion, and will be submitted in the form of a report in October 2009.

We would like to defer comment at this stage, until we formally receive a report detailing the 2009 bat surveys through Planning Service.

Andrew Mc Intosh

On behalf of NIEA: Natural Heritage

Charles Middle



Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park BELFAST BT7 2JA Email: planningreminders@doeni.gov.uk

Date: 27 January 2009 Telephone: 028 905 69615 Your Ref: O/08/0822

Our Ref: 16506-1

PAD

RE: PAD for proposed North South Electricity Interconnector Location: Lands within Armagh District Council and Dungannon Borough Council

Dear Mr Moore

I refer to your consultation letter for the above planning application which was received in this office on 6 January 2009. We acknowledge receipt of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) submitted in CD-ROM format.

Position

NIEA, Natural Heritage considers that there is insufficient information provided at present with the application to fully assess the importance of natural heritage interests. It is unlikely that we will object to this proposal on nature conservation grounds, subject to appropriate conditions. However as some surveys are on-going, and we consider further surveys to be required, we wish to defer full comment until we have all the information which we consider to be relevant.

Appraisal of the proposal: Natural Heritage Interest

The scheme covers a large geographical area and includes a number of habitats present, as highlighted in Appendix H1 of the ES. Some of these habitats may be used by species which are protected under The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).

We note that the nearest recorded badger sett is located 40m from the nearest line route. Any works closer than 25m to badger setts will require a licence from the NIEA: Natural Heritage Wildlife Officer, Evidence of otter activity has been provided.

We note the bird surveys presented in the ES. We further note that additional bird surveys are scheduled for 2008-2009 and will provide comment on this upon receipt of this information.

We note that but surveys have not been undertaken at this stage; rather an assessment of the potential use of habital features by bats. We consider that there may be mature trees within the line route which support roosting bats, and these should be subject to a bat survey.



We are concerned that there may be potentially suitable habitat for newts within parts of the proceed line route. We note that Target Notes 8, 32 and 39, for example, may be habital which is so able for newts, and consider that a newt survey is required.

Additional Information Required

- · Bat roost survey of mature trees along the route
- · Newt survey of wetland habitals along the route
- Presentation of the additional omithological survey work currently being undertaken.

Once this additional survey work has been presented in the ES, NIEA, NH will be in a position to give further consideration to this proposal.

Andrew Mc Intosh On behalf of NIEA: Natural Heritage



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Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park Lower Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 2JA Email: ehsinfo@doeni.gov.uk

Faber Maunsell 1st Floor 24 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BG

29th May 2008

Dear Ms Doyle,

RE: PROPOSED TYRONE TO CAVN INTERCONNECTOR – 400Kv OVERHEAD LINE SUBSTATION

Thank you for your letter on the 1st November 2007 to the Environment and Heritage Service which was received on 5th November 2007.

Environment and Heritage Service, Natural Heritage (EHS), does hold some site specific information at this time (see below). The scheme includes and may have an adverse impact designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest and priority wetland habitats. Please see attached maps. We are concerned that the scheme may impact the hydrology of the area and this will in turn impact on priority fen habitat. These potential impacts should be included in the EIA. The River Black water is also included in the scheme. This River and its tributaries contain Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC) and Priority Species. Potential impacts on the River Blackwater should also be included in the EIA.

I would advise that you carry out a search for additional information on the recommended websites, details attached. These may contain relevant information.

I have also enclosed advice on the scope of work that EHS considers necessary for Environmental Impact Assessment in respect of development sites

It is recommended that you contact EHS to discuss the definition and methodologies of the baseline surveys required. Specifications for surveys can be provided on request.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss any of this advice, please contact me directly. Please quote the EHS reference number with your enquiry.





and feority Spec (be f A) Jennifer Firth On behalf of EHS, Natural Heritage

Results of EHS Search - Ref CB 14478

Date 29th May 2008

Site specific information

The scheme includes area of high nature conservation value and is also near to Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Please see maps included with this letter.

Additional sources of information which may be relevant

- 1. Environment and Heritage Service website www.ehsni.gov.uk includes:
- · Details of all regional, national and international designated sites in Northern Ireland
- · Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy
- · Northern Ireland Biodiversity Action Plans
- · Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Landscape Character Areas
- Environmental Legislation
- Details of important geological and geomorphological features throughout Northern Ireland are available through CEDaR on the Habitas website at: http://www.habitas.org.uk/escr/
- Details of Recorder sites can be obtained from CEDaR, these can be accessed by contacting the Ulster Museum, 12 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5BN. Envelopes should be marked 'Info request' to CEDAR.

General Scoping Guidance

This information is **illustrative** and is not intended to be a definitive statement of the environmental information to be included in the Environmental Statement (ES). It is recommended that the developer remain in contact with EHS throughout the process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and production of the ES.

General Points:

- The scoping study phase of the EIA should identify the key topic areas where the proposed development has the potential to cause either adverse or beneficial effects on the environment.
- The range and extent of direct and indirect impacts on flora and fauna must be considered, both during and post construction, and in the short and long term.
- The EIA should consider direct effects on landscape and public perception of change.
- A combination of landscape assessment and visual assessment should be used.
- Cumulative impacts on flora, fauna and landscape of proposed and existing structures.

Flora and Fauna

The EIA should cover both habitats and species of flora and fauna (especially protected species). It should include both the proposed site and its surroundings.

- The extent of the ecological baseline must be established and the nature of further survey
 work must be established. A habitat survey (i.e. JNCC phase 1) to permit identification of
 areas which are likely to be of high nature conservation value or particularly vulnerable to
 impact from the proposed development. The survey must cover flora and fauna present in all
 seasons.
- Following from this, the extent and nature of any further survey work that may be needed should be identified. Areas thus identified should be subject to more detailed survey i.e.
 JNCC Phase 2. In case of flora, this should identify species from all plant groups, which form a significant part of the vegetation, not just higher plants. Survey must cover flora and fauna

in all seasons. Fauna surveys should include a full bird survey. The timing of surveys is critical and must be carried out at appropriate times of year.

 Baseline surveys conducted over a short period may not identify long term trends and reference should be made to previous records.

Landscape

Landscape is a fundamental component of the wider environment and is not just associated with a limited number of designated areas of particular scenic value such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

General points:

- Establish the current landscape designation and policies covering the site and its surroundings.
- Details of local landscape character of the site and its surroundings.
- Establish where the potential zone of influence for the development and its associated infrastructure will extend to, including combination effect with established development.
- In combination the information should establish the potential landscape key issues and the
 areas requiring further investigation during the baseline studies. (See Guidelines for
 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, The Landscape Institute and the Institute of
 Environmental Management and Assessment. Spon Press, London 2002).

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Impact on Local Hydrology

The consequences of changes to the hydrogeological system on peatland, rivers, streams and wetland habitats should be established.



Production of an Environmental Management Plan

An environmental management plan detailing the construction phase should be included. This plan can then be utilized to control the implementation of the development so as to avoid or limit damage to fauna and flora, and should include: a record of pre-construction site conditions, details of how to minimise the environmental impacts of construction activities and the outlining of working practices – see Mitigation Measures below. Method of construction would be specified and provisions for monitoring environmental effects during operation detailed.

Mitigation Measures

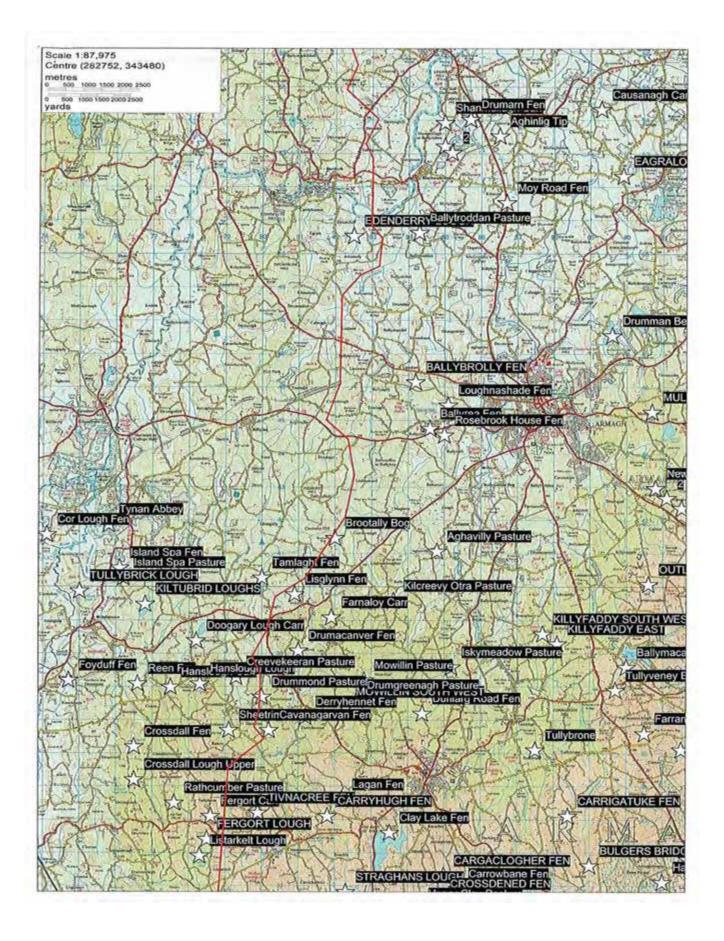
Opportunities for reducing identified negative environmental impacts of the proposal by mitigation should be established.

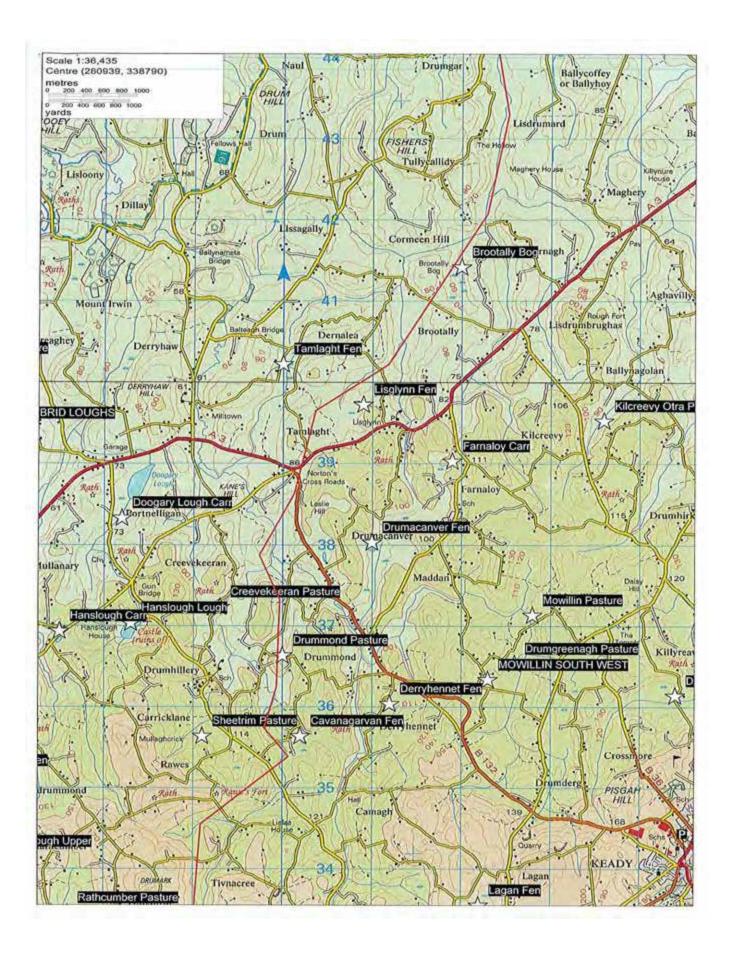
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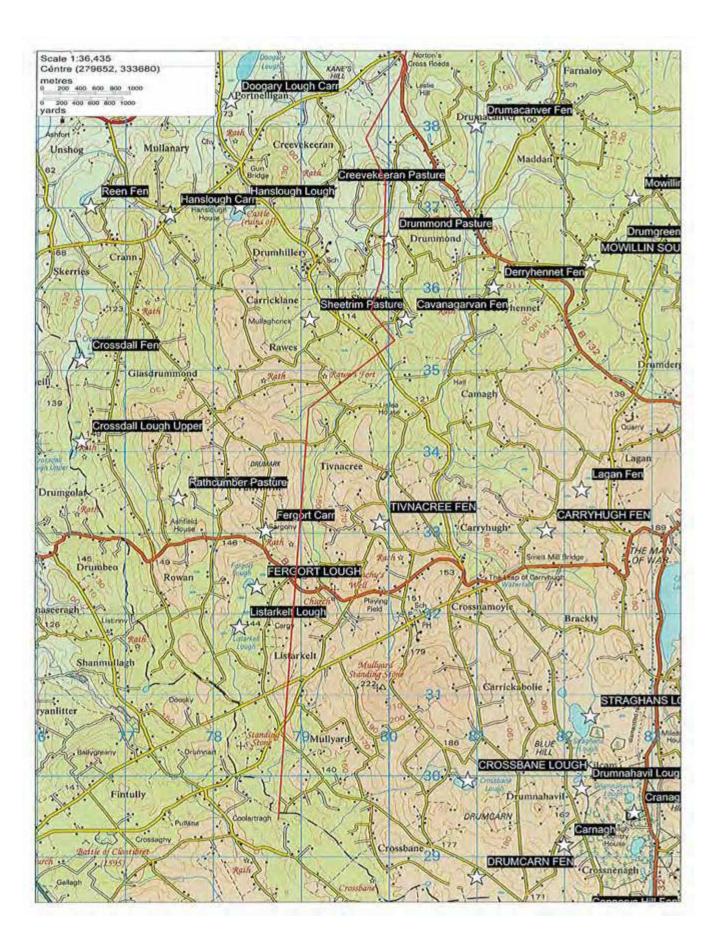
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