

Registered Mail

30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1.

**Re: DC 21/2 - Section 5 Referral – Whether the provision of c3834m of 38kv underground medium voltage grid connection cable between the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Ref 17/47) to the nearest 38kv Longford substation is or is not development and is or is not exempted development within the meaning of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended).**

Dear Sir/Madam,

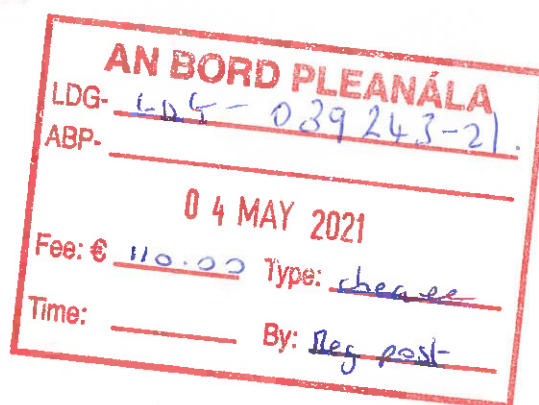
I refer to the above and request that An Bord Pleanála determine 'whether the the provision of c3834m of 38kv underground medium voltage grid connection cable between the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Ref 17/47) to the nearest 38kv Longford substation is or is not development and is or is not exempted development within the meaning of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended)'.

Attached for information all details relating to the application and Planner's consideration of the file along with the fee of €110.

Yours sincerely

  
Planning Section.

Encl.






COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LONGFOIRT  
LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL  
GREAT WATER STREET, LONGFORD.

AN BORD PLEANALA  
64 MARLBOROUGH STREET DUBLIN 1  
Ireland  
D01 V902

REMITTANCE ADVICE / FAISNÉIS IOCAÍOCHTA

Cheque No. 305124  
Supp ID / Uimh. Aitheantais 101826  
Date / Dáta 30/04/2021  
Page / Leathanach 1/1

Your Ref/ Bhur dTagairt	Inv Date/ Dáta Sonraisc	Our Ref/ Ár dTagairt	AMOUNT/ SUIM EUR	Payable Iníoctha EUR
Section 5 referral	30/04/2021	30300692 	110.00	110.00
PAGE TOTAL / IOMLÁN AN LEATHANAIGH			110.00	110.00
GRAND TOTAL / MÓRIOMLÁN			110.00	110.00

EUR  
EUR

WH = Withholding Tax CT = Subcontractors Tax  
CMP = Late Payment Compensation RA = Non Resident Landlord



7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Grian PV Longford Limited  
C/o Paul Neary, Director  
Neo Environmental Ltd.  
Johnston Business Centre  
Johnston House  
Naas,  
Co. Kildare

**Acknowledgement of application for a Section 5 Declaration.**

Planning Reference No: DC21/2

Date Received: 07/04/2021

**Nature of Development:** Provision of c3834m of 38kv underground medium voltage grid connection cable between the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Ref: 17/47) to the nearest 38kv Longford substation.

Dear Sirs,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your application on the date stated above and wish to inform you that it is under consideration at present.

A decision will be issued to you by Registered Post in due course.

Should we require any further particulars or information in relation to the application, we will be in contact with you further.

Yours faithfully

*A. Fagan*  
Planning Department





# VOLUME 1



Neo Environmental Ltd  
Johnstown Business Centre,  
Johnstown House  
Naas,  
Co. Kildare  
045 844250.  
info@neo-environmental.ie

29/03/2021

Planning Department  
Longford County Council  
Aras An Chontae  
Great Water Street  
Longford



Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Section 5 Planning and Development Act 2000-2018 Declaration – Grid Connection Cable for Cleggill  
Solar Farm Development

Planning Authority – Longford County Council

### Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for (PA Ref: 17/47) a solar farm with an export capacity of 11.1MW comprising of photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames with associated infrastructure including 7 no. inverter cabins, 1 no. control building, 1 no. customer cabin, 1 no. DNO sub-station, temporary construction compound, ducting and electrical cabling, perimeter agricultural fencing, mounted CCTV cameras and internal access tracks. This application is for a 10-year permission at a site within the townland of Cleggill, Co. Longford. The Council refused planning permission on 12 April 2017. An appeal was then submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Appeal reference is PL14.248470 and the consent was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. A period of 10 years has been allowed for construction and development must commence before 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2028. The development is proposed to have an operational life of 25 years from the date of commissioning and, upon expiration of the consent period, the development must be removed unless planning for retention of the development has been achieved prior to the initial expiration.

### Section 5 Declaration

The question arising is as follows:



relation to the existing ground level at the site of the proposed development.

**SIGNED:**



Paul Neary, Director

Neo Environmental Ltd (*Agent acting on behalf of the applicant*)

Telephone: 00 353 (0)45 844250

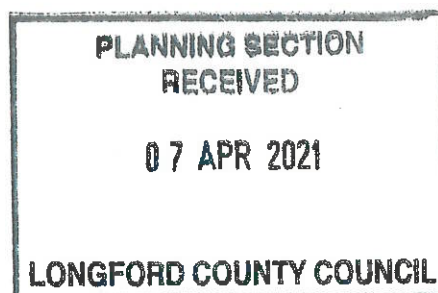
Mobile: 00 44 7776 081 697

Email: [paul@neo-environmental.co.uk](mailto:paul@neo-environmental.co.uk)

DATE: 29/03/2021

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**This application form must be fully completed and all items listed in Part 12 submitted, or your application will not be accepted and will be returned.**





**Disclaimer**

*Neo Environmental Limited shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.*

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PLANNING SECTION  
RECEIVED

07 APR 2021

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

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**Prepared For:**

Grian PV Limited

**Prepared By:**

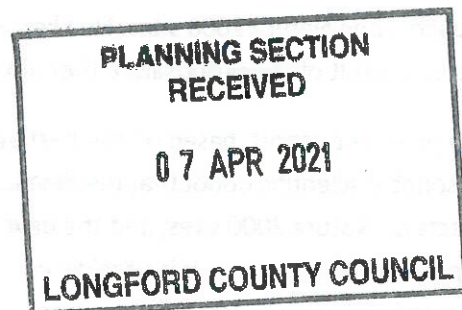
Dara Dunlop BSc (Hons)



	Name	Date
Edited By:	Daniel Flenley	29/03/2021
Checked By:	Eilísann McCann	29/03/2021
	Name	Signature
Approved By	Paul Neary	

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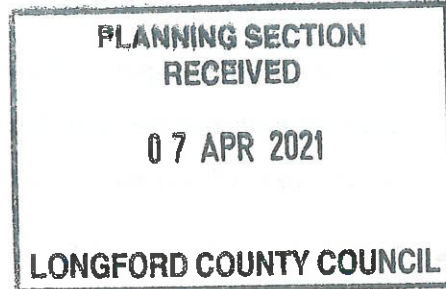
# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. A Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening report has been prepared in support of a Section 5 application for the proposed grid route to connect the consented solar farm at Cleggill, Co. Longford. This has been undertaken to assess whether there is connectivity with any Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the Proposed Cable Route and whether the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have any significant effects upon Natura 2000 sites found to have connectivity with the Proposed Development.
- 1.2. Within 15km of the Proposed Cable Route boundary there are five Special Areas of Conservation ("SACs") and two Special Protection Area ("SPA"). Of these, the Lough Forbes Complex SAC, Lough Ree SAC, Ballykenney-Fishertown Bog SPA, and Lough Ree SPA are the only sites to fall within the Proposed Development's Zone of Influence.
- 1.3. Given the nature and design of the Proposed Development, it is considered that potential impacts on the qualifying features of Natura 2000 Sites will be **negligible**. Therefore, **no likely significant effects** upon Lough Forbes Complex SAC, Lough Ree SAC, Ballykenney-Fishertown Bog SPA, and Lough Ree SPA are foreseen. This conclusion has been reached in the absence of any consideration of mitigation measures, to avoid or reduce any significant effect, that may be applied during the construction or operational phases of development.
- 1.4. It has been concluded that the Proposed Development **will not lead to significant adverse impacts** upon Natura 2000 sites. **No likely significant effect** is foreseen upon any Natura 2000 site as a result of the proposals, either alone or in combination with any other development.
- 1.5. This screening report, based on the best available scientific information, finds that there is no reasonable scientific doubt that the development does not pose any risk of significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites, and the development does not require progression to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that the next stage of Appropriate Assessment is not required.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND



- 2.1. Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Grian PV Limited (the "Applicant") to undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening for a proposed grid route connection from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Planning Reference 17/47) to the nearest 38kV Longford Substation (the "Proposed Development").
- 2.2. Please see Figure 1 – 4 of Volume 2 for the route of the Proposed Development.

### Development Description

- 2.3. The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of an underground medium voltage grid connection cable from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm to the Longford 38kV Substation. The construction phase takes place in line with the following criteria:
- The grid connection is to be installed from the solar farm along c. 3.83km of public road, with construction carried out in sections of no more than 100m at any one time. It will run below the bridge connecting to the N5 public road. A new 100m section of works will only be excavated once the majority of reinstatement has been completed on the previous section, ensuring only one section is fully opened at any one time. The excavation, installation and reinstatement process for each 100m section will take an average of one day to complete;
  - The excavated trench will be approximately 60cm in width and approximately 120cm deep, within the public road network and within the consented developments;
  - The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. 11cm diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) cable ducting will be placed into the prepared trench, which will be inspected and backfilled;
  - It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken along the side of the road, within the road corridor;
  - No installation will take place during extreme weather warnings. No construction personnel, operation or maintenance personnel will be permitted to carry out any works during extreme flood events;



- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately two day. between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately two day. The jointing bays will be located approximately 650 to 750m apart; and
- Where required, grass will be reinstated by either seeding or by replacing with grass turf.

## Site Description

- 2.4. The Proposed Development will run from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm to the nearest 38kv Longford Substation in County Longford running through the townlands of Cleggill, Lismore, Cartrons, Moneylagan, Aghadegan and Minard.



## Statement of Authority

- 2.5. The assessment has been conducted by an ecologist registered with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management ("CIEEM"). All work has been carried out in line with the relevant professional guidance; CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal<sup>1</sup>, report writing<sup>2</sup> and the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Guidance on Appropriate Assessments<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.6. Dara Dunlop is a Qualifying Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) with circa 3 years' experience in the ecology sector, including working for an ecological consultancy, undertaking a range of protected species surveys and extended phase 1 habitat surveys for industrial schemes, and land management of designated sites. Dara has co-authored a number of reports including Ecological Impact Assessments and Protected Species Reports for various developments.
- 2.7. Daniel Flenley is a Full Member of CIEEM with over 14 years of ecology experience, including undertaking surveys and writing associated reports. Daniel has experience in undertaking and managing a range of surveys and assessments including Ecological Impacts Assessments ("EclAs"), extended phase 1 habitat surveys and ornithological and protected species surveys, for over 400 projects. These include a variety of development types such as energy, commercial, industrial and transport infrastructure. Daniel holds a great crested newt ("GCN") class licence and has worked as an accredited agent under bat and amphibian mitigation and reptile survey licences.

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<sup>1</sup> CIEEM, 2013. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Available at [www.cieem.net](http://www.cieem.net)

<sup>2</sup> CIEEM, 2017. Guidelines for Report Writing. Available at [www.cieem.net](http://www.cieem.net)

<sup>3</sup> Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities. Available at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)



### 3. LEGISLATION

#### REQUIREMENT FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT



- 3.1. The requirement for Appropriate Assessment of plans or projects originates from Article 6 (3) and (4) of European Union (EU) Habitats Directive. This is implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations of 1997, and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015 (as amended).
- 3.2. The wording of Article 6 (3) of the Directive is as follows:
- "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*
- 3.3. The aim of Stage 1, 'Screening' is to determine whether or not Stage 2, the Appropriate Assessment is required (therefore to determine whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant, negative impact upon any Natura 2000 site). This is done by considering the type of development and the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites that may be impacted.
- 3.4. As outlined in the European Commission document 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites'<sup>4</sup>, any project that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but likely to have a significant effect upon it either individually or cumulatively, will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.
- 3.5. Where significant effects are uncertain or unknown at the screening stage, an AA will be required due to the need to apply the precautionary principle. Conversely, if a project will have impacts on a site, but these impacts will clearly not affect or undermine those conservation objectives, it is not considered that it will have a significant effect on the site concerned.
- 3.6. As part of the assessment consideration is afforded to 'in combination' effects with other plans or projects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures can be proposed that would avoid reduce or remedy any such negative

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2001) *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC*. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)

impacts and the plan or project should then be amended accordingly, thereby avoiding the need to proceed to Stage 3 'Alternative Solutions'.

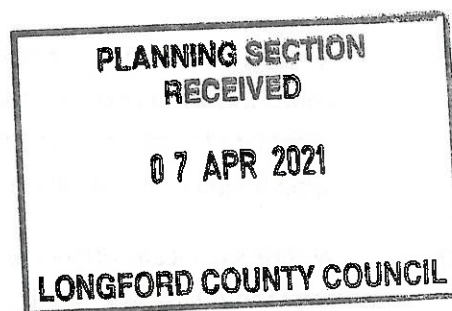
3.7. If the assessment cannot exclude significant impacts either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then the process must proceed to Stage 2.

3.8. The following legislation was used to inform the Article 6 assessments within this report:

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 1992<sup>5</sup>;
- Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, 2009<sup>6</sup>;
- The Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)<sup>7</sup>;
- NPWS, The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Habitat Assessments, Unpublished Report, 2013<sup>8</sup>.

3.9. Furthermore, the following legislation was considered in respect of the specific issues concerning Slaney River Valley SAC:

- The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977<sup>9</sup>;
- The Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act 1990<sup>10</sup>;
- EC (Water Policy) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003<sup>11</sup>;
- Protection of the Environment (POE) Act 2003<sup>12</sup>;
- Environmental Noise Regulations 2006<sup>13</sup>;
- Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992<sup>14</sup>;
- Waste Management Acts (WMA) 1996 to 2005<sup>15</sup>;



<sup>5</sup> Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

<sup>7</sup> Available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2017/act/20/enacted/en/html>

<sup>8</sup> Available at: [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Article\\_17\\_Print\\_Vol\\_3\\_report\\_species\\_v1\\_1\\_0.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Article_17_Print_Vol_3_report_species_v1_1_0.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Office of the Attorney General (1977). Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>10</sup> Office of the Attorney General (1990). Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act 1990. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>11</sup> Office of the Attorney General (2003) S.I. No. 722/2003 – European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003, as amended 2014. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>12</sup> Office of the Attorney General (2003) Protection of the Environment Act 2003. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>13</sup> Office of the Attorney General (2006) Environmental Noise Regulations 2003. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>14</sup> Office of the Attorney General (1992) Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

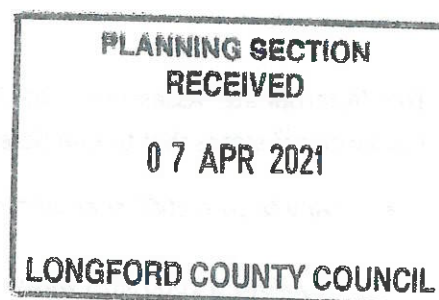
<sup>15</sup> Office of the Attorney General (1996) Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

- Waste Management (Hazardous Waste) Regulations 1998<sup>16</sup>.

## Guidance

3.10. The following guidance has been compiled and reviewed to inform the Article 6 assessments within this report:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 (as amended)<sup>17</sup>;
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10<sup>18</sup> & PSSP 2/10, 2008<sup>19</sup>;
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2001<sup>20</sup>;
- CIEEM, Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, 2017<sup>21</sup>.



<sup>16</sup> Office of the Attorney General (1998) S.I. No. 163/1998- Waste Management (Hazardous Waste) Regulations 1998. Available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

<sup>17</sup> Available at: [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/Circular%20NPW1-10%20%26%20PSSP2-10%20Final.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-npws-02-08.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*

## 4. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### STAGES OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1. The Appropriate Assessment process comprises of four stages in order to identify whether proposals have the potential to impact significantly upon Natura 2000 designations. The stages are as follows:

- **Stage 1 Screening:** To determine the likelihood of significant impacts.
- **Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement:** To assess the impact of proposals on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, considering the conservation objectives of the site and its ecological structure and function.
- **Stage 3 Assessment of alternatives:** To assess whether there are no other viable alternatives to the development.
- **Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative exists and where adverse impacts remain:** The final stage involves examining whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for allowing the proposal to impact adversely upon a Natura 2000 site

### STUDY ZONE IDENTIFICATION

4.2. The 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities'<sup>22</sup> states that the AA Screening should include the following:

- *"Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.*
- *Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project.*
- *A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et. al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects.*

<sup>22</sup> Department for Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Available at:  
[http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)

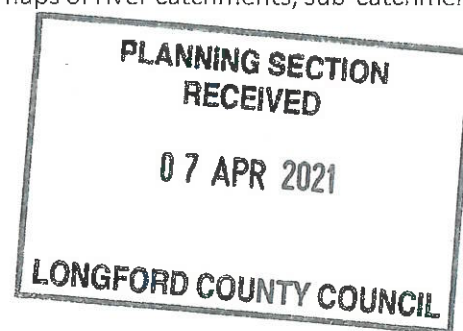
- *Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the case of sites with water dependent habitats or species, and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment."*

4.3. Owing to the limited nature of the proposals, it is considered that the Zone of Influence ("Zoi") upon the Natura 2000 designated sites and their qualifying features will fall within a 15km radius of the Proposed Development.

## Desk Study

4.4. Sources of material consulted as part of the desk study for the purposes of this assessment are as follows:

- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) natural heritage database for Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Proposed Cable Route <sup>23</sup>,
- NPWS site synopses, Natura 2000 Data Forms and conservation objectives relating to each site,
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps of river catchments, sub-catchments and flow directions<sup>24</sup>, and
- Aerial images.



## Impact Assessment Process

4.5. The assessment process involves:

- Identifying and characterising Natura 2000 sites identified within the 15km zone surrounding the Proposed Cable Route and their qualifying features and addressing whether any of these designated sites have any connectivity with the Proposed Development. If any site is found to have no connectivity then these designated sites will be 'scoped out' (not considered further);

<sup>23</sup> Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plan and Projects in Ireland. Available at: [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

- Assessing whether there will be any significant impacts to any of the Natura 2000 site, in regard to changes that result from the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of a project. Qualifying features of a Natura 2000 site that lie outside the ZOI and are not subject to any impacts from the Proposed Development will be scoped out;
- Identifying any significant impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site from the development and 'in combination' with any other development within 5km;
- Identifying the need for the Appropriate Assessment process to move to Stage 2: 'Natura Impact Statement', or if there are no impacts from the development, allowing the development to proceed.





## 5. BASELINE

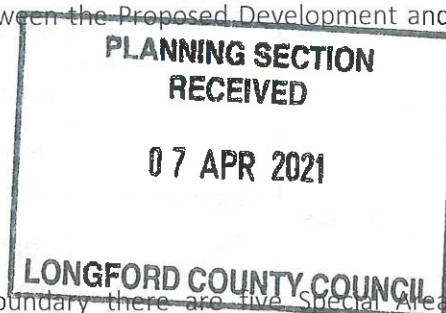
- 5.1. In accordance with National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) guidance, this stage of the AA has identified all Natura 2000 sites located within the ZOI of the Proposed Cable Route boundary. The potential impacts associated with the Proposed Development have been identified. Those Natura 2000 sites that will not be significantly impacted upon will be ruled out of any further assessment.
- 5.2. Effects can depend more on the nature of impacts, sensitivity of receptors and causal linkage, rather than actual distances. The assessment below considers connectivity, either ecological, ornithological or hydrological, that may exist between the Proposed Development and the designated sites.

### IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES

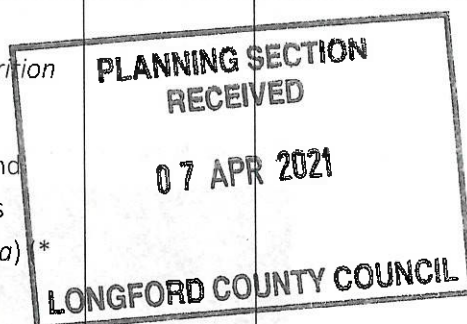
- 5.3. Within 15km of the Proposed Cable Route boundary there are five Special Areas of Conservation ("SACs") and two Special Protection Area ("SPA"). The designated features of each have been outlined within Table 5-1 below. Figure 1, Appendix A of this report details the location of these sites in relation to the Proposed Development.

Table 5-1: Natura 2000 sites within 15km

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Distance (km), Direction	Potential Connectivity with the Proposed Cable route
SAC				
002346	Brown Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	1.14km southwest	None
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Active raised bogs [7110]	1.89km northwest	Potential hydrological connection



		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]		
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Bog woodland [91D0]	5.82km south	None
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110] Depressed raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	6.32km northwest	None
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Depressed raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Bog woodland [91D0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	12.67km southwest	Potential hydrological connection





SPA				
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	1.89km northwest	Potential hydrological connection
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004] Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	12.69km southwest	Potential hydrological connection

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- 5.4. The Proposed Cable Route falls within the Upper River Shannon sub-Catchment. The Proposed Cable Route follows the N5 public road for much of its length. The cable route crosses the Moneylagan and the Lisnabo watercourses (flowing into the Camlin River). The Camlin River flows through the Lough Forbes Complex SAC and Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA.
- 5.5. The Camlin River is a tributary of the River Shannon (Upper). The River Shannon provides a potential hydrological connection between the Proposed Cable route and Lough Ree SAC and Lough Ree SPA.
- 5.6. Connectivity between the Proposed Cable Route and these Natura sites is considered unlikely. The works will take place within hardstanding, in areas isolated from drains or watercourses.

However, there is some very minor risk that surface water could enter the nearby watercourses in the event of flooding. Taking a precautionary approach, it is therefore considered (for the purposes of this report) that a potential hydrological connection exists with the Lough Forbes Complex SAC, Lough Ree SAC, Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA, and Lough Ree SPA.

- 5.7. The Proposed Cable Route does not drain into Brown Bog SAC, Clooneen Bog SAC and Mount Jessop Bog SAC. Based on analysis of the flow networks using EPA maps<sup>25</sup> it is clear that these Natura 2000 sites are not hydrologically connected to the Proposed Cable route.
- 5.8. The Proposed Cable Route consists wholly of areas of existing hardstanding along roads. These areas will not support any of the qualifying habitats or species of the remaining Natura 2000 sites. No ecological or ornithological connectivity exists with these designated sites.
- 5.9. It is therefore considered that Lough Forbes Complex SAC, Lough Ree SAC, Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA, and Lough Ree SPA are the only sites with potential to fall within the Proposed Development's Zone of Influence



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<sup>25</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

## 6. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY EFFECTS

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. This section discusses and evaluates the likely impacts of the Proposed Development affecting the Natura 2000 sites within the ZOI of the Proposed Cable Route.
- 6.2. As outlined within Table 5-1, the Proposed Cable Route has a potential hydrological connection with the Lough Forbes Complex SAC, Lough Ree SAC, Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA, and Lough Ree SPA. An assessment of the likely impacts affecting these two sites is made below.
- 6.3. Aquatic systems and the species/habitats which are dependent on these systems are sensitive to pollution/contamination of surface waters. Pollution can result from any of the following entering a body of surface or groundwater:
- Poisonous, noxious or polluting matter;
  - Waste matter (including silt, cement, concrete, oil, petroleum spirit, chemicals, solvents, sewage and other polluting matter);
  - Other harmful activities detrimentally affecting the status of a waterbody.
- 6.4. Table 6-1 below details common water pollutants, their effect on the aquatic environment and standard best practice pollution prevention measures<sup>26</sup>.

Table 6-1: Common Water Pollutants, Their Effects and Standard Prevention Measures.

Common Water Pollutants	Adverse Effect on Aquatic Environment	Standard Best Practice Pollution Prevention Measures
Silt	Reduces water quality, clogs fish gills, covers aquatic plants, impacts aquatic invertebrates, leads to a reduction in prey species and leads to degradation of habitat	<p><u>Pollution Prevention</u></p> <p>Hydrocarbons, greases and hydraulic fluids to be stored in a secure compound area</p>

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<sup>26</sup> Ciria (2015) Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide. Fourth edition.

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Bentonite (very fine silt)	Reduces water quality, clogs fish gills, covers aquatic plants, impacts aquatic invertebrates, leads to a reduction in prey species and leads to degradation of habitat	<p>All plant machinery to be serviced and maintained properly, thereby reducing risk of spillage or leakage</p> <p>All waste produced from construction is to be collected in skips with the construction site kept tidy at all times</p> <p>Excavated soil is to be stored on site or removed by a licensed waste disposal unit</p>
Cement or concrete wash water (highly alkaline)	Changes the chemical balance, is toxic to fish and other wildlife. This can lead to direct impacts on aquatic species (including otter), or indirectly through loss of prey resources	<p>All materials and substances used for construction will be stored in a secure compound and all chemicals to be stored in secure containers to avoid potential contamination</p> <p>Location of spill kit to be known by all construction workers and implemented in the event of spillage or leakage</p>
Detergent	Removes dissolved oxygen, can be toxic to fish and other wildlife present within the aquatic environment	<p><u>Waste Management</u></p> <p>Skips are to be used for site waste/debris at all times and collected regularly or when full</p>
Hydrocarbons (e.g. oil, diesel)	Suffocates aquatic life, damaging to wildlife (e.g. waterbirds) and to water supplies including industrial abstractions	<p>All hydrocarbons and fluids are to be collected in leak-proof containers and removed from site for disposal or recycling</p> <p>All waste from construction is to be stored within the site confines and removed to a permitted waste facility</p>
Sewage	Reduces water quality, is toxic to aquatic wildlife, and damages water supplies	<p><u>Environmental Monitoring</u></p> <p>Contractor is to nominate member of staff as the environmental officer with the responsibility to ensure best practice measures are implemented and adhered to, with any incidents or non-compliance issues being reported to project team</p>

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## Lough Forbes Complex SAC

- 6.5. The Lough Forbes Complex SAC is designated for its **Annex I** habitats detailed above in Table 5-1.

### Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC

- 6.6. The main conservation objectives<sup>27</sup> of the SAC are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

### Character of the Qualifying Interests of Lough Forbes Complex SAC

- 6.7. Table 6-2 below, identifies the percentage extent of qualifying habitat types within the SAC. These habitats cover circa 31.05% of the entire SAC.

Table 6-2: Qualifying Habitats of the Lough Forbes Complex SAC and their extent within the SAC

Code	Qualifying Habitats	Extent (%)
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation	23.83
7110	Active raised bogs	0.67
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	2.51
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	0.03
91E0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	4.01

### Assessment of Likely Impacts of Lough Forbes Complex SAC

- 6.8. The Lough Forbes Complex SAC comprises a natural eutrophic lake formed by a broadening of the River Shannon other qualifying habitats (series of active raised bogs, alluvial woodlands, degraded raised bogs and *Rhynchosporion* vegetation and alluvial forests).
- 6.9. As the grid connection will follow existing roads, there will be no loss of habitat as a result of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Cable route is entirely within an area of

<sup>27</sup> NPWS (201c) Conservation Objectives: Lough Forbes Complex SAC 001818. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

hardstanding. The road network is heavily used by traffic, meaning that emissions from the minor cable laying proposed will in all likelihood not be significant.

- 6.10. During the construction phase, standard best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented. All relevant pollution prevention law (listed above under Legislation) will also be adhered to.
- 6.11. As outlined in the supporting **Technical Appendix 1: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**, at watercourse crossings, the contractor will be required to adhere to the environmental control measures outlined within the Section 5 application and accompanying reports, the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be prepared prior to the commencement of construction, and best practice construction methodologies.
- 6.12. Therefore, given the nature and design of the Proposed Development, it is considered that potential impacts on the qualifying features of Lough Forbes Complex SAC will be **negligible**. Therefore, **no likely significant effects** upon the SAC are predicted.

### Lough Ree SAC

- 6.13. The Lough Ree SAC is designated for its importance for eight Annex I habitat(s) and Annex II species (otter). These are detailed above in Table 5-1.

### Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC

- 6.14. The main conservation objectives<sup>28</sup> of the SAC are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

### Character of the Qualifying Interests of Lough Ree SAC

- 6.15. Table 6-3 below, identifies the percentage extent of qualifying habitat types within the SAC. These habitats cover circa 94.41% of the entire SAC.

**Table 6-3: Qualifying Habitats of the Lough Ree SAC and their extent within the SAC**

Code	Qualifying Habitats	Extent (%)
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	90.04
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	1.00

<sup>28</sup> NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SAC 000440. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

7110	Active raised bogs	0.04
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	0.31
7230	Alkaline fens	1.00
8240	Limestone pavements	1.00
91D0	Bog woodland	1.00
91E0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	0.02

### Assessment of Likely Impacts of Lough Ree SAC

- 6.16. Lough Ree is a large lake, designated as both a SAC and SPA. This SAC is separated from the Proposed Cable route by the Lough Forbes Complex. It is considered that potential impacts would be similar (or potentially lesser) than those outlined for the Lough Forbes Complex SAC.
- 6.17. For the reasons set out in relation to the Lough Forbes Complex SAC, it is considered that potential impacts on the qualifying features of Lough Ree SAC will be **negligible**. Therefore, no likely significant effects upon the SAC are predicted.

### Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA

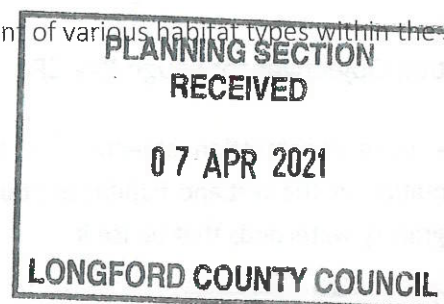
- 6.18. The Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA is designated for its importance to wetland and waterbirds, and specifically populations of 13 bird species. These are detailed above in Table 5-1.

### Conservation Objectives for Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA

- 6.19. The main conservation objective<sup>29</sup> is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

### Character of the Qualifying Interests of Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA

- 6.20. Table 6-4 identifies the percentage of the extent of various habitat types within the SPA.



<sup>29</sup> NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [004101]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Table 6-4: Habitats of Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA and their extent within the site

Code	Habitats	Extent (%)
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	1.0
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	40.0
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	25.0
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	9.0
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	18.0
N19	Mixed woodland	3.0
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	3.0

### Assessment of Likely Impacts of Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA

- 6.21. Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA overlaps Lough Forbes SAC. It is designated for supporting a population of Greenland White-fronted Goose (although the last record of this species at the site was in 1990/91).<sup>30</sup>
- 6.22. The grid route uses only areas of existing hardstanding along roads, these areas do not support habitats supportable for supporting qualifying bird species. As outlined above, the Proposed Development will not lead to significant levels of contaminants entering the aquatic environment.
- 6.23. Given the nature and design of the Proposed Development, it is considered that potential impacts on the qualifying features of Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog will be **significant**. Therefore, **no likely significant effects** are predicted upon this SPA.

### Lough Ree SPA

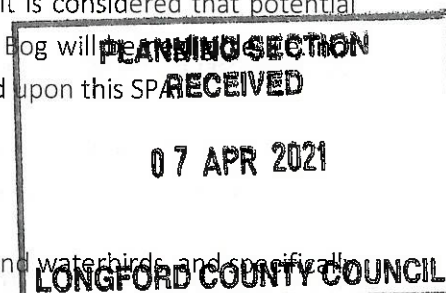
- 6.24. The Lough Ree SPA is designated for its importance to wetland and waterbirds, and specifically populations of 13 bird species. These are detailed above in Table 5-1.

### Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA

- 6.25. The main conservation objective<sup>31</sup> is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lough Ree SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

<sup>30</sup> NPWS (2012) Site Synopsis. Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA

<sup>31</sup> NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.





## Character of the Qualifying Interests of Lough Ree SPA

- 6.26. Table 6-5 below identifies the percentage of the extent of various habitat types within the SPA.

Table 6-5: Habitats of Lough Ree SPA and their extent within the site

Code	Habitats	Extent (%)
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	95.0
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	1.0
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	2.0
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	1.0

## Assessment of Likely Impacts of Lough Ree SPA

- 6.27. Lough Ree SPA is of high ornithological importance for both wintering and breeding birds.
- 6.28. The grid route uses only areas of existing hardstanding along roads, these areas do not support habitats supportable for supporting qualifying bird species.
- 6.29. Given the nature of the development and the dilution factor that will occur along the intervening watercourses, the Proposed Development is not likely to have any significant direct or indirect impact on the SPA. There will be **no significant** contamination of water in the absence of mitigation.
- 6.30. Given the nature and design of the Proposed Development, it is considered that potential impacts on the qualifying features of Lough Ree SPA will be **negligible**, i.e. **not significant**. Therefore, **no likely significant effects** are predicted upon this SPA.

## SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON NATURA SITES WITHIN 15KM

- 6.31. **No likely significant effects** upon any of the Natura 2000 designated sites outlined within this report are foreseen as a result of the Proposed Development. This conclusion has been reached in the absence of any consideration of mitigation measures, to avoid or reduce any significant effect, that may be applied during the construction or operational phases of development.

## 7. CONSIDERATION OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 7.1. As well as singular effects, cumulative effects also need to be considered. Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 15 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations state that an Appropriate Assessment should be performed for any plan or project that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, may significantly affect a Natura 2000 site.
- 7.2. Cumulative effects can be an issue when multiple proposals each have a low level of impact on Natura 2000 sites. If several proposals all have a small impact, the combined result can lead to a significant effect on the qualifying features of a Natura site.
- 7.3. A search of the Longford County Council online planning portal was therefore undertaken. This looked for any existing, approved or proposed (in planning) solar farms or other developments within the 5km study area that could contribute to significant cumulative effects on local ecology. The developments found are listed below in **Table 7-1**.

**Table 7-1: Cumulative Developments within 5km**

Name and Planning Reference	Description	Planning Status	Distance and Direction from Proposed Grid Route
Cleggill Solar Farm (1747)	Development will consist of a 10-year permission for the construction of a 11.1MW solar PV farm with associated infrastructure including 7 no. inverter cabins, 1 no. control building, 1 no. customer cabin, 1 no. DNO sub-station, temporary construction compound, ducting and electrical cabling, perimeter agricultural fencing, mounted CCTV cameras and internal access tracks.	Granted with conditions, 17/02/2017	0.0km west
Ballykenny Solar Farm (19222)	Development will consist of a 25-year permission for the construction of a 19ha 9MW solar farm comprising of photovoltaic panels on ground mounted steel frames, a single storey DNO building, customer room, control building, storage container, HV kiosk, switch gear housing and 6 no. inverter	Granted with conditions, 24/10/2019	1.20km northwest

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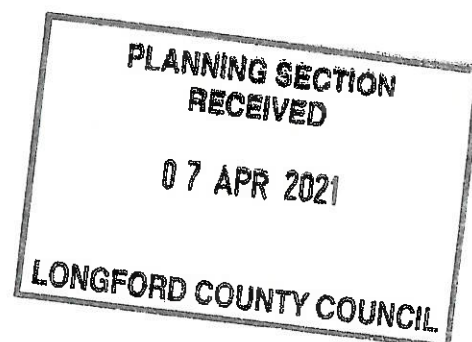
	transformer enclosures, ducting and electrical cabling, perimeter fencing, mounted CCTV cameras, new internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure.		
Atlantic Mills Factory (18146)	Development will consist of the construction of a solar farm with an export capacity of approximately 4MW comprising photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames, with associated infrastructure within the property of the former Atlantic Mills factory.	Granted with conditions, 24/08/2018	5.0km east

- 7.4. A number of smaller development permissions were also found within 5km. These mostly comprised single dwellings and modifications to existing dwellings or agricultural buildings. Due to the limited nature of the works proposed, these are not considered to pose any significant risk to the Natura sites in question.
- 7.5. No likely effects on designated sites were predicted in relation to the solar farm developments outlined above.
- 7.6. The Proposed Development will have **negligible effects** upon any Natura 2000 site, it has therefore been concluded that the Proposed Development will give rise to **no likely significant cumulative effects** upon Natura 2000 designated sites in combination with any other development.



## 8. CONCLUSION

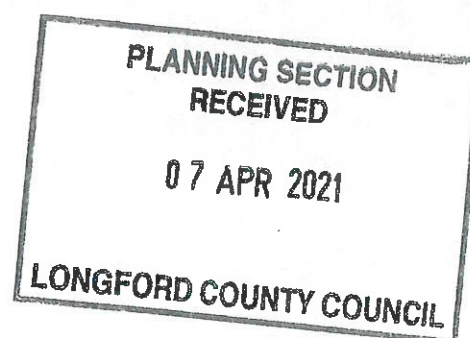
- 8.1. According to NPWS (2009), the Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Screening Exercise can result in one of three conditions:
- An Appropriate Assessment is not required where the plan/proposal is associated with the management of the site,
  - There is no potential for significant effects, i.e., Appropriate Assessment is not required, or
  - Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain, i.e., the project must either proceed to Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment or be rejected.
- 8.2. The Proposed Development at Cleggill was screened for likely significant adverse effects upon Natura 2000 sites within its Zone of Influence.
- 8.3. It has been concluded that the Proposed Development **will not lead to significant adverse impacts** upon Natura 2000 sites. **No likely significant effect** is foreseen upon any of these Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposals, either alone or in combination with any other development.
- 8.4. This screening report, based on the best available scientific information, finds that there is no reasonable scientific doubt that the development does not pose any risk of significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites, and that the development does not require progression to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that the next stage of the Appropriate Assessments is not required.



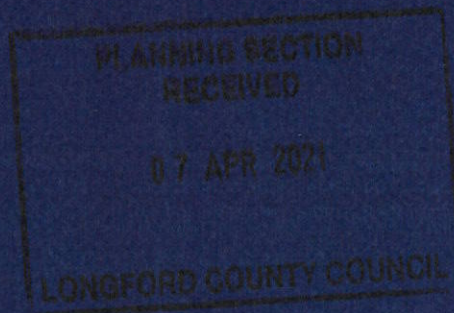
## 9. APPENDICES

### Appendix A

- Figure 1 – Natura 2000 Designated Sites







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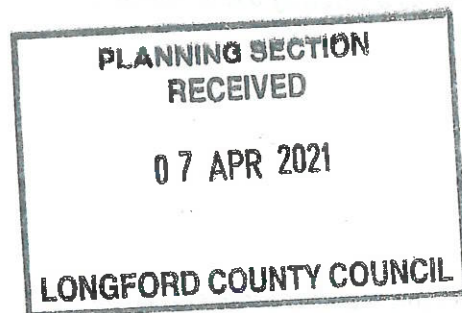
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# Technical Appendix 2: Construction Traffic Management Plan

Section 5 Application: Cleggill - Longford Underground Cable  
Connection

29/03/2021



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

- 1.1. Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Grian PV Longford Limited (the "Applicant") to undertake a Preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for a proposed grid route connection from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Planning Reference 17/47) to the nearest 38kV Longford Substation (the "Proposed Development").
- 1.2. Please see Figures 1 – 4 of Volume 2A for the route of the Proposed Development.

## Development Description

- 1.3. The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of an underground medium voltage grid connection cable from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm to the Longford 38kV Substation. The construction phase takes place in line with the following criteria:
- The grid connection is to be installed from the solar farm along c. 3.8km of public road, with the construction carried out in sections of no more than 100m at any one time. A new 100m section of works will only be excavated once the majority of reinstatement has been completed on the previous section, ensuring only one section is fully opened at any one time. The excavation, installation and reinstatement process for each 100m section will take an average of one day to complete;
  - The excavated trench will be approximately 60cm in width and approximately 120cm deep, within the public road network and within the consented developments;
  - The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. 11cm diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) cable ducting will be placed into the prepared trench, which will be inspected and backfilled;
  - It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken along the side of the road, within the road corridor;
  - No installation will take place during extreme weather warnings. No construction personnel, operation or maintenance personnel will be permitted to carry out any works during extreme flood events;



- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately two days between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately two day. The jointing bays will be located approximately 650 to 750m apart; and
- Where required, grass will be reinstated by either seeding or by replacing with grass turf.

## Site Description

- 1.4. The Proposed Development will run from the consented Cleggill Solar Farm to the nearest 38kv Longford Substation in County Longford running through the townlands of Cleggill, Lismore, Cartrons, Moneylagan, Aghadegan and Minard.

## SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

- 1.5. The aim of a CTMP is to put in place procedures to manage grid connection construction traffic effectively. It will outline measures to enhance the efficient transportation of construction materials and machinery whilst minimising delay and disruption to general traffic.

- 1.6. This CTMP will provide details of:

- The Cable route identification and assessment;
- Construction Traffic Management Plan; and
- Typical details to be included in the final CTMP.

- 1.7. This report is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix 2A: Figures
  - Figure 1: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Full Route)
  - Figure 2: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Section A)
  - Figure 3: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Section B)
  - Figure 4: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Section C)
  - Figure 5: Traffic Management General Arrangement Up to 60km/h
  - Figure 6: Traffic Management General Arrangement Up to 100km/h
- Appendix 2B: Standard Specification for ESB MV/LV Network Ducting



- Appendix 2C: SSWP - Working on Roads

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

- 1.8. This Construction Traffic Management Plan has been produced by Michael McGhee and Tom Saddington of Neo Environmental. Having completed a civil engineering degree in 2012, Michael has worked on over 1GW of solar farm Construction Traffic Management Plans across the UK and Ireland, as well as more detailed transport statements for major developments.
- 1.9. Tom has an undergraduate degree in Bioengineering and graduated with an MSc in Environmental and Energy Engineering in January 2020. He has been working on various technical assessments for numerous solar farms in Ireland and the UK.



## 2. GRID ROUTE IDENTIFICATION AND WORKS DESCRIPTION

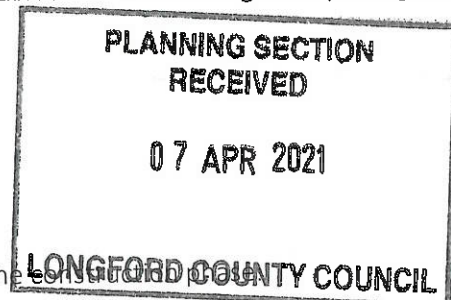
- 2.1. This delivery route and subsequent CTMP is based upon information provided by the Applicant as well as a thorough review of the local and national roads in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

### GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

- 2.2. The proposed cable route will run north from the Cleggill Solar Farm for approximately 0.4km to the L5003. It will run southeast along the L5003 for approximately 1.9km before turning east onto the L1001 where it will run for approximately 0.2km. Here it will turn northeast onto the N5 for approximately 1.2km before turning left onto the N4 where it will continue for approximately 0.5km and turn right into the Longford Substation.
- 2.3. A site visit was conducted on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 where the route of the grid connection was travelled. See **Figures 1 – 4: Appendix 2A** for the chainage and photographic record of the route.

### CONSTRUCTION WORKS

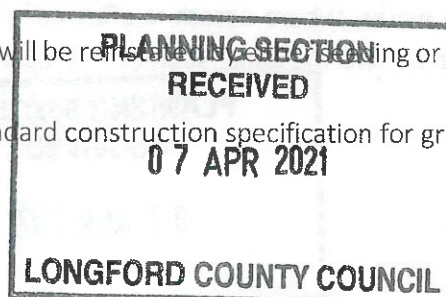
- 2.4. The following activities will be undertaken during the construction phase:
- The Contractor, and their appointed Site Manager, will prepare a targeted Method Statement concisely outlining the construction methodology and incorporating all mitigation and control measures included within the Section 5 application and accompanying reports;
  - All existing underground services shall be identified on site prior to the commencement of construction works;
  - Traffic management measures will be implemented in accordance with those included in the Preliminary Construction Traffic Management Report, and a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with Longford County Council prior to the construction stage;





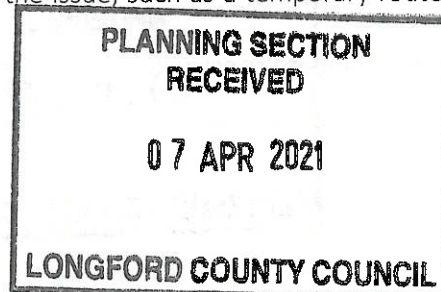
- The grid connection is to be installed along c. 3.8km of public road, the construction will be carried out in sections of no more than 100m at any one time;
- The excavated trench will be approximately 60cm in width and approximately 120cm deep, within the public road network and within the consented development;
- The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. 11cm diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) cable ducting will be placed into the prepared trench, inspected and backfilled;
- At watercourse crossings, the contractor will be required to adhere to the environmental control measures outlined within the Section 5 application and accompanying reports, the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be prepared prior to the commencement of construction, and best practice construction methodologies;
- Where the cable route intersects a small culvert, the culvert will remain in place and the ducting will be installed above it, providing minimum separation distances in accordance with ESB and Irish Water specifications;
- The proposed development does not involve the draining or modifying of any of the minor or major tributary watercourses;
- No installation will take place during extreme weather warnings. No construction personnel, operation or maintenance personnel will be permitted to carry out any works during extreme flood events;
- No more than a 100m section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100m section will only be excavated once the majority of reinstatement has been completed on the first;
- The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take an average of one day to complete a 100m section;
- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately two days between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately two day. The jointing bays will be located approximately 650 to 750m apart;
- Where required, grass will be reinstated by re-soiling or by replacing with grass turf.

2.5. Appendix 2B shows the standard construction specification for grid connection ducting.



### 3. CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 3.1. Prior to the commencement of construction, a fully detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared by the Contractor and submitted to Longford County Council for approval. The aim of a CTMP is to put in place procedures to manage grid connection construction traffic effectively. It will outline measures to enhance the efficient transportation of construction materials and machinery whilst minimising delay and disruption to general traffic.
- 3.2. A typical Construction Traffic Management Plan will:
- Identify sensitive areas (e.g. schools, homes and local settlements);
  - Be aware of road restrictions (e.g. narrow roads, bridges with restrictions etc.);
  - Identify the location of suitable parking facilities for private cars and plant;
  - Ensure there are designated vehicular routes on site with speed restrictions;
  - Ensure safe access and egress from site;
  - Gain permissions for any required road closures, diversions etc. from the relevant bodies (N.B. none are expected as part of this grid connection route);
  - Consult with An Garda Síochána and relevant local authorities;
  - Schedule site deliveries outside of times of peak traffic volume;
  - Schedule deliveries with regard to drop-off and collection times of local national schools; and
  - Ensure erection of the required signage as per Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 3.3. Careful traffic management procedures will minimize the overall level of disruption experienced. Delays to traffic will be kept to a minimum and full use will be made of the available carriageway and verges.
- 3.4. The CTMP will make provision for safe access at all times to the works zone for all businesses in proximity to the works. Where access is affected, the contractor will engage with the affected business to resolve the issue, such as a temporary route or plan working hours to suit the business.



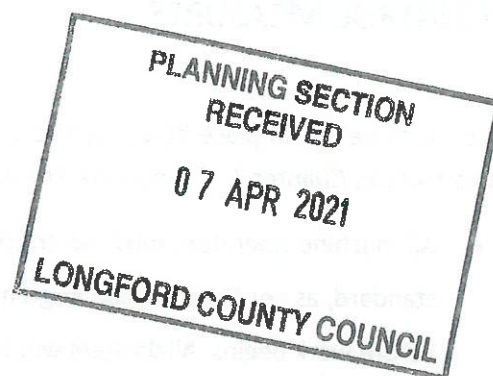
- 3.5. The CTMP will make provision for safe access at all times to private residences in proximity to the works. Steel plates will be available with all construction crews to facilitate egress and access to residential dwellings. All facilitative works shall be done in cooperation with the local residents in the works area. Residents affected by particular works will be made aware in advance of the impending works for that day and the anticipated progress of that particular construction crew. The contractor shall ensure that throughout the course of the works its operations do not put pedestrians at risk.
- 3.6. The signing lighting and guarding cardholder will set up the signs, cones and delineation devices as shown in **Figures 5 and 6: Appendix 2A** which are in line with the *Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8*.

## TIMING RESTRICTIONS

- 3.7. All traffic movements will be carried out between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00 and 16.00 Saturdays. Public holidays will be observed unless otherwise agreed with the local planning authority. Deliveries will also be scheduled to avoid peak times, i.e. avoiding rush hours and after school pick up times.

## CONSTRUCTION PARKING

- 3.8. It is forecast that there will be a maximum of five staff on site at any one time during the construction period, although this will vary subject to the overall programme of works. It is anticipated that only one crew will be required for each 100m section of works and these will all be one or two vans. These will either park within the coned working area on the public highway, or within the consented solar farms, should space be limited.



## 4. MITIGATION

4.1. The impact of the Proposed Development has been identified as temporary in nature and associated with a short construction stage only. It is still important that any impact is minimised as far as possible and, in light of this, the following mitigation measures should be considered:

- Advanced publicity outlining the traffic management proposals and duration and giving advance warning of specific traffic management measures;
- Adequate advance signing of the works;
- Using the existing road for cabling works at off-peak hours;
- Using more than one crew at different location along the route to shorten the duration of the grid connection works; and
- Using appropriate machinery to maintain access along the public roads at all times.

4.2. Other mitigation measures include:

- Road signage is to be put in place throughout the site to comply with the traffic management plan;
- Signage will be cleaned and maintained regularly;
- Public roads will be kept clean by sweeping when necessary; and
- All vehicles will be limited to an appropriate maximum speed to be determined in the Construction traffic management plan.

### TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES

4.3. All signs to be put in place before works begin, as per the Department of Transport Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8 – Temporary Traffic Measures & Signs for Road works.

- All machine operators must be trained, experienced operators, trained to FAS CSCS standard, as per Construction Regulations. All workers will attend an Induction Course before work begins. All dangers will be explained & a record of this will be kept on file.



- Warning signs to be posted to highlight the dangers involved. All access points to be closed/barricaded to prevent access by unauthorized persons. Only authorized personnel allowed on site. A responsible person to be on site at all times. All signs, cones & barriers must be put in place, as per **Figures 5 and 6: Appendix 2A** and the Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8 – Temporary Traffic Measures & Signs for Roadworks.
- All signs and cones will be set up by the responsible person who has completed a 3-day Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Course and is the holder of a SAFE PASS card. This complies with requirements under The Construction Regulations for Temporary Traffic operations supervisor.
- All signs to be inspected by a SAFE PASS cardholder before work begins. All employees to ensure signs are in place & maintained at all times. Any problems to be reported to the responsible person on site.
- A safety zone will be maintained at all times between workers and vehicles using cones & barriers.
- All signs to be put in place as per the guidance for The Control and Management for Traffic at Roadworks 2010.
- Follow Guidelines from Department of Transport Traffic Signs Manual.
- For safe passage of pedestrians through any work area, follow the Department of Transport Guidelines.
- A Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP) Working on Roads will be completed on site by the foreman and it will be explained to all staff and they will be asked to sign it (see attached at **Appendix C**).



## 5. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 2A: FIGURES

- Figure 1: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Full Route)
- Figure 2: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Section A)
- Figure 3: Indicative Cable/Ducting Route (Section B)
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- Figure 5: Traffic Management General Arrangement Up to 60km/h
- Figure 6: Traffic Management General Arrangement Up to 100km/h

### APPENDIX 2B: STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR ESB MV/LV NETWORK DUCTING

### APPENDIX 2C: SSWP - WORKING ON ROADS

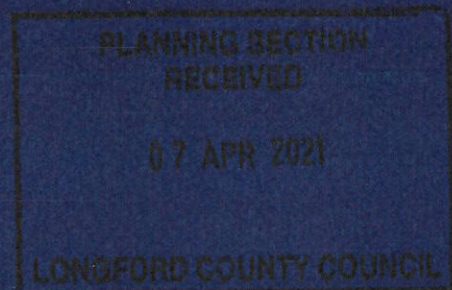




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## Appendix 2A

PLANNING SECTION  
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LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



